Thursday, July 1, 2010 ★★ Vol. 35 / No. 285

# 'KAYO ANG BOSS KO'

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

• Spain, Paraguay barge into last 8 / A22
• Reporters' Notebook: Despite Noynoy snub, Corona shows up / A6
• Walang wangwang in full inaugural address / A10

## Aquino also thanks the people, 'my true strength'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

"YOU ARE THE BOSS," THE COUNTRY'S now most powerful man declared yesterday in Filipino ("Kayo ang boss ko"), addressing the people who, he said, echoing his constant campaign remark, were his "true strength."

Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III was sworn in as the Philippines' 15th President under ballot-gray skies but in sweltering heat, applauded by an adoring crowd estimated by police at 500,000.

He spoke briskly but forcefully, packing all the right buttons in a 23-minute inaugural address delivered mainly in Filipino.

He promised to lead by example in fighting corruption and living up to the legacy of his famous parents, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and President Corazon Aquino; he said he was willing to forgive personal hurts but not the abuses committed against the people.

It was a speech without the usual abstract platitudes but replete with matter-of-fact things.

He directed Leila de Lima, his justice secretary, to deliver "true and complete justice to all," and Presteve Alexis, his agriculture secretary, to do away with middlemen and, in the process, stamp out "opportunities for corruption."

"Na marir wang-wang," Mr. Aquino said, referring to the blaring sirens that announce the passing of vehicles bearing personages rushing with self-importance.

"Today, the dream starts to become a reality. To those among you who are still undecided about sharing the common burden I have only one question: Are you going to quit now that we have won?" he said.

Mr. Aquino promised to bring about a

RAPID A8

## Aquino, Arroyo convoy gets in way of Binay's e-jeep

By Norman Bordadora

DAPPER IN A CREAM BARONG TAGALOG, Vice President Jejomar Binay rode yesterday into what he called the next chapter of his life in a battery-powered jeepney to show his concern for the environment.

Two fuel- Five fuel-guzzling SUVs carrying the outgoing and incoming Presidents intruded into Binay's programmed scene-stealer. With sirens blaring, the presidential motorcade beat Binay's puny convoy of two electric jeeps to the inauguration at Quirino Grandstand.

"It's a breach of protocol," said Manuel Quezon III, the inaugural spokesperson and the event's historical adviser.

Binay was supposed to wait on stage along with the other guests for President Aquino.

"It was just a mix-up. You know it happens," Binay later told reporters. "We were on time. But there is no breach to protocol. You really can't control how fast a convoy can get," he said, downplaying an obvious boo-boo.

The convoy carrying Aquino and our-

AQUINO A8

REPORTING FOR DUTY President Aquino ... exercises a snappy salute as he troops the line for the first time, which marks the end of the simple inaugural rites at Quirino Grandstand in Manila. (More pictures on Page A18) INFOGRAPHIC

## They came to celebrate democracy

By Philip C. Tubeza and Cathy C. Yuvienco

A STREET VENDOR SPELLED OUT WHAT set Benigno Aquino III's inaugural apart from that of his predecessor, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in 2004.

"There are more people now. It feels different now. It's far from before, when it wasn't the people's will. People didn't like her," Linda Calipay, 53, said yesterday.

Calipay, a resident of Malate, Manila, said she had wanted to witness the new President's inaugural and listen to what he had to say. She went to Rizal Park and watched the inaugural program at Quirino Grandstand by herself.

Despite overcast skies, an exuberant crowd of more than 500,000, including 8,000 VIPs, packed the site.

"I just could not stay away from this celebration of democracy," said Timor Leste President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jose Ramos Horta, who led more than 100 foreign dignitaries to the inaugural.

A sea of people dressed in yellow gathered to witness the one-and-a-half-hour ceremony that was peppered with songs and other musical numbers before Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales administered the oath of office to Mr. Aquino and Vice President Jejomar Binay at around noon.

"The family feels overwhelmed," said

A CELEBRATION A11

## GMA loses immunity from suit

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESterday lost her immunity from suit as president for more than nine years and may be summoned to respond to charges of corruption during her administration, according to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

"The presidential immunity stops the moment a sitting president leaves his or her office. That's under the Constitution," De Lima told reporters shortly after taking her oath of office in Malacañang yesterday.

Arroyo, who took her oath as Pampanga representative hours after her successor, President Benigno Aquino III, was sworn into office yesterday, could end up being the main target of a "truth commission" that will investigate the "Hello Garci" election scandal, fertilizer scam, the National Broadband Network deal with ZTE Corp. and other high-profile corruption cases during her rule.

In his inaugural address at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila yesterday, Mr. Aquino reiterated his plan to put up the commission, to be headed by retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., to order

GMA LOSES A11

## *No anthem glitch for Charice; VIPs stand for folksy Noel*

By Pocholo Concepcion and Bayani San Diego Jr.
*Entertainment*

PERHAPS ECHOING THE NEW ADMINISTration's vow to right many wrongs in government, the most anticipated performer at the Aquino inaugural chose not to take issue with the National Anthem, dreading the musical blue pas she and other singers earlier committed.

NO ANTHEM A11

## Gloria jeered in Luneta, cheered in Pampanga

By Tarra Quismundo, Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño
in Manila
Tonette Orejas and Charlene Cayabyab
*Inquirer Central Luzon*

WITH A FINAL SALUTE TO THE TROOPS, a handshake with her successor and a wave of goodbye to a buckling crowd, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo rode out of Rizal Park to end her troublous presidency. Hours later, in Pampanga, protestmeisters serenaded her with a song of gratitude on her installation as a congressional representative there.

Whether in fine shoes or in slippers, people who came to witness history at the Luneta yesterday seized the last moments of the Arroyo presidency to heap ridicule on a leader that surveys had described as one of the most unpopular the country has ever had.

Booing and thunderous applause at seeing her go rose from the crowd as Arroyo left the park. They seemed ecstatic to see the last of her as president.

GLORIA A11

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Southern Luzon | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Bicol | Partly Cloudy |
| Pangasinan | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Cagayan | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo | Partly Cloudy |
| Aurora | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Mostly Cloudy |
| Legaspi | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Mostly Cloudy |
| Catanduanes | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Mostly Cloudy |

| 6/29 | |
|---|---|
| 2 PM | 22 16 |
| 5 PM | 16 29 |
| 8 PM | 4 13 |

SUERTRES

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 PM | 2 2 5 |
| 5 PM | 4 4 5 |
| 9 PM | 0 7 1 |

FOUR DIGIT

0 1 7 0

MEGALOTTO 6/45

4 5 7 16 23 44

P10,024,496.20

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

4 8 11 19 35 40

P47,994,280.00

# PNP: No more 'wang wang'

THE DAYS OF PRIVATE VEHICLES WITH BLINKERS and sirens blaring to evade traffic jams are numbered.

Acting on orders of President Aquino, Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa yesterday met with chiefs of concerned PNP units and ordered intensified operations against unauthorized use of sirens and blinkers.

Verzosa also directed all PNP units to "revitalize their operations" against modifying police cars.

"The PNP and all its members will align and follow all the programs and policies of the new President," Verzosa said in a statement.

In his inaugural address at the Quirino Grandstand yesterday, Aquino explicitly spoke about his disgust over erring vehicles violating traffic rules in Metro Manila by using "wang wang" (sirens).

The country's 15th president also vowed to end the culture of modifying policemen even as he declined his intent to curtail the modernization of the PNP and the Armed Forces.

After Aquino's oath-taking, Verzosa immediately summoned the heads of the Highway Patrol Group (HPG), Police Security and Protection Group (PSPG) and the PNP's operations units at Camp Crame to discuss the existing policies on the use of these gadgets.

In a news briefing at Camp Crame, PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina said the PNP chief instructed HPG director Chief Supt. Orlando Mababa to immediately write a letter to the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

Espina, who is expected to replace Mababa as HPG chief next week, said the PNP will coordinate with the LTO to bring the agency mandated by law to implement policies on the use of land vehicles.

Asked if the PNP was remiss in implementing the rules on the use of sirens, he said: "I don't think so because we had several operations before."

"Maybe we just need to revitalize our efforts," Espina added.

Since for police cars and motorcycles being used as escorts, he said Verzosa (especially prohibited the use of sirens and blinkers on all PNP vehicles.

"We will have to close with the LTO if PNP cars can use sirens during police operations," he said.

He noted that even before Aquino's pronouncement, Verzosa had already ordered his police escorts not to use sirens in their convoy.

According to Espina, a presidential decree issued by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos 37 years ago stipulated that only police, military and LTO vehicles were allowed to use sirens. Marlon Ramos


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WORLD CITIES SUMMIT

# Strong RP civil society the envy of Singapore

By DJ Yap

SINGAPORE—IF THERE WAS SOMETHING affluent Singapore could learn from the still-developing Philippines, it would be how to have a more engaged civil society, a Singapore official here said.

Lionel Yeo, chief executive officer and dean of Singapore's Civil Service College, praised the Philippines for having such a strong civil society that had taken on some roles traditionally assumed by government.

"When I visited Manila a few years ago, I was struck by the strength of its civil society," Yeo said in response to a question about the ideal division of roles between government and private sector to ensure the sustainable future of cities.

On the sidelines of the World Cities Summit in Suntec City here held from June 28-July 1, Yeo spoke before reporters from several Asian countries, including the Philippines.

## Social infrastructure

In some governments like Singapore, he said the residents expected the government to take a leadership role in providing what he called "social infrastructure," which included housing, education and health.

In Singapore, Yeo said all residents enjoyed free basic education and heavily subsidized housing and health care.

But the context is different in other countries, like the Philippines, where the civil society has taken a much more participatory role in such social infrastructure programs.

He cited the "massive programs" of Gawad Kalinga, a nongovernmental organization which constructs low-cost homes for indigent families around the country.

"Previously, I would like to see Singapore have the same kind of active civil society," Yeo said.

## Sharing experiences

The official said the summit sought to be a platform in which local government officials and ministers could share each others' experiences and best practices in urban management.

The goal, he said, was to explore some of the "collective solutions, while inevitably citing their different histories and contexts.

Yeo admitted that no two cities are the same, thus what worked for one would not necessarily work in another, although by adapting from practices with the city's profile, they could still be of great help.

The event drew several hundred local executives, academics and policy makers from Singapore to share best practices and sustainable strategies to respond to the challenges faced by an increasingly urbanized world.

# Inaugural fever continues in QC

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE EXUBERANCE OF PRESIDENT AQUINO'S inauguration was captured at the festivities celebrating his ascension to the presidency at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

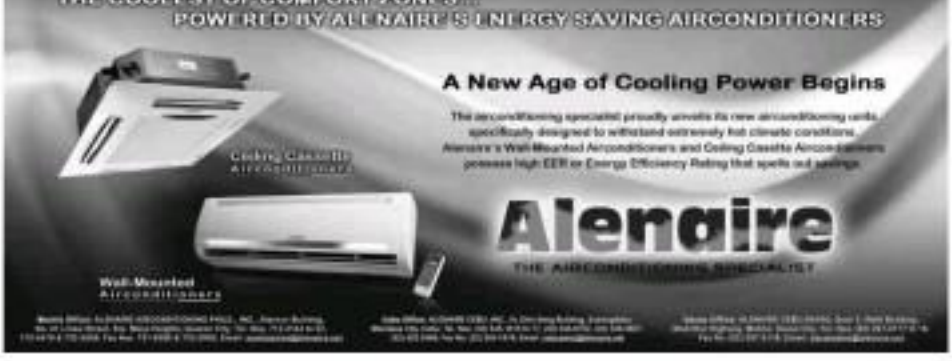
Thousands of people—young and old, the rich and the poor—spent their holiday at the QC Circle for a star-studded musical extravaganza to celebrate Mr. Aquino's first day as the 15th President of the Philippines.

Not minding the mud and the warm temperature under rather overcast skies, people spread out their blankets and mats, creating a sea of yellow, as they waited for the rest of the night, Mr. Aquino, to come up the stage and perform a special number.

The mood in the circle was exuberant: teenagers taking photos, families picnicking under the trees as they enjoyed the music being played on stage and women on a shopping spree for "Dilaway" memorabilia—from yellow ribbon pins, JO bears, jollibee shirts being sold from P20 to P100.

A tall walker in a glittering yellow suit also drew attention from the party-goers, gamely posing for snapshots each passersby.

Also bearing the yellow ribbon also danced in the sky. They were the teenagers Mabuhay Muay Mabuhay Muay!

# Noynoy skirted land reform, militant lawmakers lament

disappointed," Bello said in a phone interview.

President Aquino made no mention of the thorny issue of land reform in his inaugural address, and the committee fell short disappointed.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said he was scandalized that Aquino neglected any reference to the topic.

"Disappointing that he was totally silent on land reform and many social justice issues," Casiño said in a text message.

Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello also said he had expected Mr. Aquino to touch on agrarian reform, but he believes that its absence in his speech was not necessarily a bad omen.

"I was certainly expecting how would be a reference to land reform. Was I disappointed. I was not surprised? Yes, I was that... My sense is that, in the case of land reform, I am still confident that there are among the policy issues that will be set early enough," he said.

Land reform has been a pickle topic in Mr. Aquino's campaign. His critics have said that the anti-distribution of the Cojuangco Hacienda Luisita was a glaring example of his family using its influence to shirk the law mandating the distribution of land to tenants to improve inhabitants.

But Mr. Aquino has warned to exclude Hacienda Luisita in the land distribution of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in the next five years.

While he did not mention agrarian reform in his inaugural address, the President touched on the plight of farmers. He said he would provide them with irrigation and extension services, and would eliminate the middlemen that buy their produce cheaply but resell the products at exorbitant prices.

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## MESSAGE

MAYOR DAN NERI LIM

# *Leaving something behind*
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- A subsidy of P5,000.00 per semester to children from families with a gross income of not more than P120,000.00.
- Free hospitalization to indigents under the Blue Card program
- Provides free hospitalization, free medicines, free vitamins, birthday cake and cash gifts to Senior Citizens.
- Free medicines to beneficiary families under the Bottka sa Kalawahan through Deputy Mayor Mario Uy, founder and Executive Director.
- Completion of Tagbilaran City Council after being idle for 15 years. In one generation at least P16 Million a year for the City.
- Road rehabilitation project that includes installation of urban night lighting which is the "technology of the future".
- Five (5) regular doctors with eight (8) under contract attend to the health needs of 17 Barangay Health Centers.
- City Monitoring Team to address the shortage of manpower of policemen. The augmentation team has contributed to higher crime solution efficiency and more effective crime prevention even during big events.
- Held 180 Purok Patrols where the Mayor and City officials bring the government right to the doorstep of their constituents every morning from 6 to 7 AM.

## Green Light
**(Upcoming Projects)**

- Improve and expand operation of Nag-ang projects for pre-school children, elementary school assistance and tuition subsidy for College students
- Expand services for Senior Citizens
- Expand coverage for Bottka sa Kalawahan
- Improve the mechanics of Purok Patrol
- Full operation of the water system under the Local Water Utilities Administration under a privatized scheme
- Construction of townships for the homeless and informal settlers provided that they comply
  - with a code of good behavior
- Invite more partners for skills trainings and non-formal work opportunities
- Build the relief waste and wastewater treatment facility
- Complete the road rehabilitation, drainage and street lighting project
- Offer an incentive package for foreign, domestic and home grown investors
- Strictly enforce "No Smoking" campaign
- Offer incentives to business establishments and public offices that efficiently maintain their comfort rooms
- Streamline the bureaucracy for a lean and mean government work force
- Design and implement an effective program to generate more revenues in addition to traditional tax measures
- Massive overhaul of the San Pompoc public market and bus terminal under an urban renewal project that will include a three-level structure to house the wet market, restaurants and offices

## Lim's formula for victory: Hard work + homework

Mayor Dan Lim with losing poseur-in award grant and now Rep. Nisang Pacquiao or Tagbilaran City

## Daghan Kaayong Salamat!

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# Despite Noynoy snub, Corona shows up

ALTHOUGH DENIED THE TRADITIONAL honor of administering the oath to an incoming president, Chief Justice Renato Corona still showed up at President Benigno Aquino III's inauguration.

Corona stood with nine of the 14 Supreme Court justices present at the Quirino Grandstand yesterday.

Aquino broke tradition and chose another magistrate, Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales, to administer his oath of office because he had disagreed with the court ruling that allowed his predecessor to appoint Corona last month despite an election-related ban on midnight appointments.

Interviewed back at the Supreme Court by radio reporters who rushed to cover the inauguration, Corona said he had no ambition for "personal opinion" and reiterated Aquino's inauguration "to show the Supreme Court's respect for the Office of the President as an institution."

"We want to show that we are ready to do our part to bring the country forward. Our personal opinions are not important," Corona said in Tagalog.

Corona also said he did not feel affected by others besides, in his inaugural address, Aquino that he would review all "last night appointments" or those appointments made by his predecessor after the start of the election period on March 10.

Corona was appointed on May 17 to succeed Chief Justice Reynato Puno, whose retirement fell within the prohibition period.

After much debate, the beginning Court ruled that high court positions were not included in the ban.

"Hindi naman midnight appointment yung akin. Only case is not a midnight appointment," Corona said.

Aside from Corona and Carpio-Morales, the other Supreme Court justices who attended were Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Arturo Brion, Mariano Del Castillo, Roberto Abad, Jose Perez and Jose Mendoza.

Except for Carpio-Morales, who disrobed, said Corona who took no part in the ceremony, other justices who attended the inauguration were among the nine justices who ruled in favor of Corona's appointment.

### No acknowledgment

As he began his inaugural address, Aquino acknowledged specific VIPs, namely former presidents Joseph Estrada and Fidel Ramos, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and House Speaker Prospero Nograles.

But Aquino did not specifically acknowledge Corona, who heads a co-equal branch of government, and merely gave a general greeting to "members of the Supreme Court."

But after he delivered his address, Aquino shook hands and kindly exchanged pleasantries with Corona as he passed by the chief justice as he was leaving the stage.

Aquino – first cousin Kris Aquino's estranged husband Mel Sarmiento – also had a brief chat with Corona, then with Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who stood next to Corona.

After shaking hands with Lim, Aquino went back to Corona and tapped the chief justice's arm before he finally left the stage.

*****

### Who wasn't there!

There were some conspicuously absent faces in the long parade of stars and politicians to park Outshined Mar Presidential aspirant Senator Mar Roxas skipped the inauguration of his running mate. His wife, broadcaster Korina Sanchez, was also absent.

Mr. Aquino's celebrity singer Kris was present with sister Ballsy Aquino, but her husband James Yap was notably absent.

Mostly after elections-ended, Kris announced her marriage to the basketball star was likewise over.

### Required attendance!

Many people brought their children to witness history unfolding.

Some attendees, students in particular, however, admitted they came because they were required to by their teachers or were asked to write a handout paper or an essay about the historic event.

There were others who said they came to watch the performances of Charice Pempengco and Martin Nievera.

### No umbrellas, please.

Despite off-and-on showers, it was not advisable to open an umbrella at the Rizal Park yesterday—especially when passing in front of large video walls broadcasting the inauguration rites.

"Ang pagbawal sa payong," a group of teenagers would shout sarcastically.

Umbrella bannings happened often enough to become a running joke and source of laughter at yesterday's rites.

### Cheers and jeers

Many applauded but some people in the crowd booed Mr. Aquino's predecessor, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, as she reviewed the honor guard one last time.

Some gave Mr. Arroyo a loud applause when the giant screens showed her grandchildren dressed for dance competitions as they entered the inaugural venue.

Others waited, shouting "Goodbye Gloria!"

### Magic 15

Long queues formed in front of three McDonald's branches that sold burgers for P15 each.

On Taft Ave., Jollibee, Mang Inasal, the sign said: "In honor of our 11th President, we are selling all products at P15 only."

Marsilio Flores, however, gave away free cups of drinking water, a welcome treat as the parched and exhausted.

### Yellow money

Other concerning People took advantage of the inauguration by selling souvenirs—almost all in yellow. Aquino's campaign color.

Nine-year-old Jomar Garza and 12-year-old Joshua Rivera, peddly among the youngest vendors selling "Noynoy" merchandise and yellow ribbons for P5 each.

T-shirts bearing the face of Aquino and his nickname, "President Noy" or "P-NOY" as well as yellow umbrellas, sold like hotcakes at P180 to P350 each.

Other Noynoy memorabilia on sale included button pins, keychains, tumblers, fans, among many others. Some souvenir items bore the image of Aquino's parents, former President Corazon Aquino and martyred senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

The most expensive souvenir items were imported watches that went for P480 (Seiko strap), P960 (leather and rubber strap) and P958 (stainless).

The watches featured a quote from one of the published letters of Aquino's father to the then President. "Live with honor and follow your convictions."

### Trash for cash

While the President was delivering his address, scavengers were in and out of the crowd picking up recyclable plastic cups and bottles.

A 64-year-old Ilin Paling Bisnar resident, Mores Fernandez, said a kilo of plastic cups would earn him P36 in a junkshop.

Fernandez lugged around a dirty sack while people listened to the new President. In some instances, Fernandez was while people finished their drinks so he could get their plastic bottles.

### Shifting allegiances

With the changing of the guard came an instant shift of allegiance among Malacañang employees.

The ousted Presidential Steno Desk (PSD), which chairs on daily news about the presidency, issued a memorandum to first official press release if a President Aquino, heaping lavish praise on the 15th President of the Republic.

"The use of yellow that gave birth to the Tao People Power in the country more than two decades ago came trooping back as the nation witnessed the inauguration," said the news release. Dona Bumbingan, Michael Ubay, Cathy Yamsuan, Theo Nartea and Steve Quimsumbo


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# Queen greets new president

By Cynthia D. Balana

BRITISH QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND THE Australian Embassy in Manila yesterday sent congratulatory messages for the inauguration of President Benigno Aquino.

British Embassy Charge d'Affaires Colin Crosbie delivered the message to Aquino in Malacañang.

"I send you my congratulations on your inauguration as President of the Republic of the Philippines," the Queen said.

"I look forward to continuing the close cooperation and ties of friendship between our two countries. I wish you and the people of the Philippines prosperity and every good fortune," she added.

The Australian Embassy, on the other hand, sent the same message to Aquino and Vice President Jejomar C. Binay.

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TIN CAB approval

# 'Kayo ang boss ko'; thanks the people, his 'true strength'

From page A1

bureaucracy that would be sensitive to the plight of the common folk.

"You are the boss, so I cannot ignore your orders. We will design and implement an innovative and feedback mechanism that can effectively respond to your needs and aspirations," he said, adding:

"We are here to serve and not to lord over you. The mandate given to me was one of change. I accept your marching orders to transform our government from one that is self-serving to one that works for the welfare of the nation."

He stressed that his campaign slogan—"If no one is corrupt, no one will be poor"—would define his stay in power. "In my impoverished countrymen, starting today, your government will be your champion," he said.

The new President, a scion of a landed clan, drew fervent applause when he told his listeners that, like them, "I know and feel the problems of ordinary citizens."

Mr. Aquino also said the massive "silent suffering" was about to end.

"Here are even been ignored by the very government you helped put in power? I have. Here you had to endure being unduly shoved aside by the strong-hearing, owners of those who have no display their positions and power over you? I have, too. Here you experienced exasperation and anger at a government that, instead of serving you, needs to be ordered by you? So have I," he said.

Things will be different under his rule, Mr. Aquino said.

"No more jueteng, no more smuggling, no more corruption during the campaign, whether today or in the coming challenges that will confront us over the next six years. No more influence peddling, no more patronage politics, no more cavalry. No more excuse, no more shortcuts, no more delays. It is time for us to work together once more," he said.

## Unexpected, unimagined

The new President continued: "It is also because of this unbelievable victory in the May 10 election:

"My presence here today is proof that you are my true mandate. I never expected that I will be here taking my oath of office before you, as your President. I never imagined that I would be tasked with continuing the mission of my parents. I never entertained the ambition to be the symbol of hope, and to inherit the problems of our nation. I had a simple goal in life—to be true to my parents and our country to an honorable son, a caring brother and a good citizen."

Unlike former President Macapagal-Arroyo who sought to double her audience with a 10-point economic and social legacy in her 2004 inaugural speech, Mr. Aquino merely pledged honest and effective governance in the keys to solving the ills of the past, with himself as a "good model" and the members of his Cabinet as example of ethical, honest and true public servants.

## Priorities

On the search for peace in troubled areas in Mindanao, he said his government was "committed to a peaceful and just settlement of conflict, inclusive of the interests of all [its Cha]' lumad, Bangsamoro or Christian."

Mr. Aquino outlined his strategy in his priority areas—education, health, quality infrastructure, housing, fiscal stability, food security, and the anti-graft drive.

He said he would prioritize the construction of more classrooms and school facilities; raise the standard of education, specifically vocational courses for those who could not afford to go to college; improve the quality of transportation, tourism and trade infrastructure; work more vehemently for workers' rights and overseas workers held accountable for their projects; and review the emergency employment program instituted by his mother to provide jobs in local communities.

Mr. Aquino said he would also boost the collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and fight graft in the Bureau of Customs, broaden public health services under Philhealth within three years; build a home for every family in safe communities; ensure food security through irrigation, services and marketing support; and strengthen the Armed Forces and Philippine National Police by recruiting more and providing them more perks.

He added that he would uphold the right of the people to public information and improve the process of amendment and feedback.

Mr. Aquino likewise cited his campaign promises on level of the playing field for investment, two red tape and maintain stable economic policies.

He said he ultimate goal was to develop an economy strong enough to sustain its population and negate the need for Filipinos to search for jobs abroad.

"We will be a predictable and consistent place for investment, a nation where everyone will say, 'It all works,'" he said.

## Reconciliation

Mr. Aquino expounded on his policy on reconciliation:

"To those who talk about reconciliation, if they mean that they would like us to simply forget about the wrongs that they have committed in the past, we have this to say: Those can be no reconciliation without justice. When we allow crimes to go unpunished, we give consent to their occurring over and over again."

He said he was happy to report that Justice Chief Justice Hilario Davide had accepted the invitation to chair a Truth Commission that would "shed light on many unanswered issues that continue to haunt our country."

He warned Arroyo's "midnight appointees" that he would review their designations granted through "midnight favors."

"Let this serve as a warning to those who intend to embrace the crooked ways that have become the norm for too long," he said.

## Carrying the torch

Mr. Aquino also expressed profuse thanks to "you who have brought me here"—"old, young, celebrity, ordinary folks who have moved the country to campaign for change; my household help who provided for all my personal needs; my family, friends, colleagues at work, who shared, cried and gave their prayers and support; who stayed up all hours to guard my votes and make sure they were counted; and the millions of Filipinos who persevered, kept faith and never lost hope."

He pledged to be true to the legacy of his late parents who, he said, he would "not be able to face" if he did not fulfill his promises.

"My parents sought nothing less, died for nothing less, than democracy and peace. I am blessed by this legacy I shall carry the torch forward," he said.

INAUGURAL SWEAR-IN... The only son of heroes Benigno Aquino Jr. and Corazon Aquino is sworn in as the Philippines' 15th President by Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales, with Fr. Catalino Arevalo holding the Bible. The others in photo are former President Fidel Ramos, the new President's sisters and Chief Justice Renato Corona.

EDWIN BACASMAS

## FAST FACTS

PRESIDENT AQUINO'S INAUGURAL address lasted a little more than 20 minutes, about as long as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's inaugural address in 2004.

Mr. Aquino's speech was applauded 27 times. Joseph Estrada's 30-minute inaugural address in 1998 at Quirino Grandstand was interrupted by applause 22 times.

The shortest inaugural address by a Philippine president was delivered by Elpidio Quirino in 1948 in Malacañang, following the death of President Manuel Roxas.

Quirino said: "In memory of our years and illustrious predecessor who is now lying in state, let us pledge ourselves to establish better and closer understanding among us, and I beseech you to maintain more tolerance, goodwill and love, which we need in this supreme moment of our history."

The second shortest inaugural address was delivered by Mr. Aquino's mother, Corazon Aquino, in 1986 at Club Filipino.

The speech, which lasted two minutes short 10 minutes, had been scribbled on a paper napkin by Teodoro Locsin Jr., a friend of the Aquinos, who became her press secretary.

Sergio Osmeña was the only President who did not deliver an inaugural address on the day he took office.

Arroyo was the first President to deliver her inaugural address hours before being sworn into office. She delivered the speech at Rizal Park in Manila at around 8 a.m., and then took her oath of office at noon in Cebu City.

Unlike Arroyo, Corazon Aquino stayed at Quirino Grandstand for the entire inaugural ceremony of her successor, President Fidel V. Ramos, in 1992.

After Ramos took his oath of office, he kissed his wife Amelita and then kissed his predecessor on both cheeks.

Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives, The Commonwealth in 1992 Inaugural Book

# Aquino, Arroyo convoy gets in way of Binay's e-jeep

From page A1

going President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo arrived several minutes ahead of Binay's green e-bikes with garish colors that stood out like a sore thumb beside the elegant presidential limousines.

"We are now going to start a new chapter in our service to the country," Binay said in between handshakes and picture taking in the Manila Hotel lobby hours before the grandstand event.

## 'I'll be there'

Binay, who served for more than 20 years as Makati City mayor, was asked what his expectations would be for his first 100 days in office as vice president.

"I've been always saying that I'll be there and in all in-between days that we continue the special relation perhaps between the Aquino and Binay families," he said.

Binay slept at the hotel on the eve of his inauguration. Before dressing up for the event, Binay went to Manila Cathedral to pray. "I just asked the Lord to always guide us in the things that we will do," he said.

## 'No harm done'

Members of Binay's staff and the presidential convoy met 15 minutes too early. The program showed that Binay was scheduled to arrive at the venue at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Aquino and Arroyo arrived at 10:45 a.m.

Binay's tiny green convoy was pulling out of the Manila Hotel driveway and moving toward the nearby grandstand when the presidential convoy arrived. Motorcycle escorts waved those in the way—including the new Vice President—to move.

"The Vice President gives way to the President. In any contest, that is always the case" said Binay's spokesperson Lito Atienza. "No harm done at all."

Atienza said the animated conversations between Mr. Aquino and Binay on the grandstand was proof that all's well between them.

## Big opportunity

Binay said taking the journey to the ceremonially televised event was "a big opportunity to show the commitment of the country to the concerns about problems regarding the environment."

Environmentalist Red Constantino, an advocate of the battery-operated vehicle, drove Binay to the inauguration venue. Eleven jeeps are now plying public transport routes in Makati City.

Constantino himself was involved in a tense discussion with inaugural organizers when he was told to move the jeep on the driveway while he was waiting for Binay to move out from the hotel lobby.

The engine of Mr. Aquino's sleek and other family members at Rizal couldn't move to pick them up and to leave the driveway because of the jeeps. Commotion later ensued and the cluster eventually managed to leave the premises.

## 'On my own'

With no department office to go to just yet, Binay told reporters that he would have a lot of time to move around the country to confer with provincial and mayors on what they need to improve governance through an improved financial standing.

"Before you talk about politics, you should have revenues," he said and vowed to help local executives raise enough funds to spend for their constituents' welfare.

Binay said expressed his desire to serve in the new Cabinet as interior secretary, but Mr. Aquino said he would head the department until he has made up his mind who to appoint there. Binay has said that he has no desire to serve in any other Cabinet post.

"I can tell them my top priority, the items I gathered from my consultations, the complaints against them, my suggestions and at the same time, I can also work on my own," Binay said. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

NO. 2 MAN. Jejomar Binay, with wife Elenita holding the Bible, takes his oath as Vice President before Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales.

EDWIN BACASMAS

# Rich Asian men prefer poor Pinays

HONG KONG—ASIAN MEN FROM RICH COUNTRIES SUCH AS Japan and South Korea are increasingly seeking brides from poorer ones like Vietnam and the Philippines—as economically liberated local women get picky.

Marriages between Japanese men and foreign women shot up 73 percent between 1995 and 2006, to 20,995, according to the latest government report. Most of the women were Filipinos, followed by Chinese.

Matchmakers—notably Chinese ones—remain popular in the countryside, where it's quite hard to find young women," said Toshio Ieshita, president of dating agency Kuyo in Osaka, western Japan.

"For nowadays, it's getting harder even downstream as a lot of young Japanese women are economically independent and prefer to remain single," Ieshita said.

In South Korea, more than 10 percent of fishermen and farmers who married in the 12 months to May 2009 took foreign brides, mainly from China and Vietnam, government statistics show.

Both examples point to the role of rank and lifestyle in Cupid's games—it is usually the less marketable men in the richer countries who look abroad for a wife when they can't find one at home.

The story is repeated in Singapore—South and Asia's wealthiest society—Hong Kong and Taiwan, and often involves marriage brokers.

An online matchmaking site in Singapore, where foreign men seek wives has rejection by brides-obtained local women, often because it is "dedicated to Vietnamese whom men must "medically examined and certified virgins."

On the other side of the transaction, the women are usually so impoverished that even poorer men from an economic standpoint a better life.

"Due to poverty in their families and because they want to help improve the situation, Cambodian women decide to marry foreigners," said Ya Sinoeth, director of a Cambodian group which fights human trafficking.

### Cheated and sold

"Some women meet good spouses, but many have been cheated and sold from one woman to another," he said.

This sense of contrasting often leads to abuse of foreign brides, rights activists say.

"Many of the cases we are dealing with involve violence committed by them husbands," says Fenni Wong, founder of Hong Kong Union, which helps ethnic minorities in the HK.

"They feel helpless because many of them do not have any relatives in Hong Kong and speak little English or Chinese," Mainland China, Vietnam and the Philippines provide most of the foreign brides for Hong Kong men.

The potential for exploitation of helpless girls from impoverished families has led some countries—SoKo inquiries and migration of brides—to put restrictions in place—Mail-order brides from the Philippines were once a common phenomenon, but tales of the horrors being shared by their foreign husbands abroad prompted the government to outlaw the practice.

Despite this, various "marriage broker" operators get around the law by bringing in foreign men to select their prospective brides before flying off with them.

### Security guarantee

While it was once mainly Western men who sought Filipino brides, in recent years Japanese and South Korean men have also turned to the archipelago in search of party mates.

Indonesia is considering a proposal that a $50,000 "security guarantee" should be lodged by foreign men who marry Indonesian women.

If the couple divorce, the wife will be entitled to take the money. If they stick together for at least 15 years, then can claim it as "shared property." But couples would be able to get around the requirement by marrying abroad.

Cambodia in March suspended marriages between South Koreans and its citizens for several weeks amid unconfirmed new reports of trafficking.

Among "importing" countries, South Korea itself launched a crackdown two years ago on matchmaking agencies which use email messages or classified information to help Koreans find foreign brides.

Activists say that because of false advertising some women end up with spouses who have few assets or who are ill, alcoholic or of difficult character.

### Match-making services

Taiwan also took action, banning commercial international match-making services but you offer a series of high-profile criminal cases, including one in which a man was jailed for murdering and cutting his Vietnamese wife.

More than 424,000 Taiwanese are married to foreigners, usually from China and South-east Asia, according to the immigration bureau.

While China is mostly an exporter of brides, import demand is expected to rise because of the one-child policy which has contributed to an uneven distribution and a shortage of girls. AFP

# P-Noy: 'Walang wangwang, walang tong'

**Full text of the inaugural Address of President Benigno S. Aquino III, June 30, 2010, Quirino Grandstand**

His Excellency Jose Ramon Ileto, Former President Fidel V. Ramos, former President Joseph Estrada, former President Juan Ponce Enrile and members of the Senate, House Speaker Prospero Nograles and members of the House, justices of the Supreme Court, members of the foreign delegations, Your Excellencies of the diplomatic corps, fellow colleagues in government, along mga kababayan,

Ang pagtayo ko dito ngayon ay patunay na kaya ang isang tuwid na tao. Hindi ko inakala na darating sapat sa panahong ito, na ako'y maaatasang sa kanya-kanya ilang taong Pangulo. Hindi ko pinangarap maging tagapagsaayos ng pag-asa at tagapagpanatag ng mga naliwanagan ng unos noong nakaraan.

Ang katotohan ay sa buhay ay simple lang: maging tapat sa sking mga tungkulang at sa bayan bilang isang mamamayan at sa anak, mabuti na kaya at mahirap mamamayan.

Nilahukan ng sking ama ang dikatatayuan sa ilumanin mga ang kanyang buhay para tuluyang ang ating demokrasya. Kinay ng sking ina ang kanyang buhay upang pangalagaan ang demokrasyang ito. Sabay ito ang sking buhay para siguradohin na ang sking demokrasya ay kapak-pakinabang sa kanyat isa. Nanirahanan na ko sa sking ina at sa sking pamilya ganito kung mali kung kinakalangan.

Kaya ba ay minsan ring nalimutan ng pamahalaan ang sking kalalakan sa pinuno? Ako rito. Kaya ba ay nagtiis na sa tingin pare lamang ekasinghalan ng isang magbabati-batang de-wang-wang sa kalsada? Ako rin. Kaya ba ay sawang-sawa na sa pamahalang sa halip na magsilbi sa tambuhayan ay kalaunan ay nilo-lorong pagsasawayan ban at limit? Ako rin.

Kaisakal niyayo ako. Marami na sa atin ang hinirate gamit ang kanilang puso—silbuan na nila ang sking buhay sa kasiliang pagtalabasap ng pagbabago at kaunlaran. Tenido nila ang hirap, sinapid ang pangarap sa kanila. Ang kanilang dahil dyosa mag pag-asa kabit kanan na dio-os-os ay hindi nila nakikita. Sa ilang sandali na sanili ko lang ang sking mandela, pati ako ay unpig-ing dat...talaga bang hindi na mabubago ang pamamahala kaida dito? Hindi kaya ang pangarap ko'y isang kahibangang hindotoop ko? Iisan ba nakaraan na kalilungang pare-pagitan ang tadhana ng Pilipino?

Ngayon, sa araw na ito...dito mag-uumpisa ang pamumuno ng marubil na mga daang ng mamamayan. Hindi ni ngayon lang ito nangyari. Ito ang sking dahilan kung bakit ngayon, mag-tatapos na ang pagtitis ng mga bayanan. Ito naman ang simpisa ng kalbaryo ko, ngunit ang mariam na kalbaryo ng mga ay kalayaan.

Nasisiwala akong hindi lahat ng nagsalita sa gobyerno ay corrupt. Iti katotohanan, mas marami sa kanila ay tapat. Hindi nilang magkagkad na gobyerno upang gamawin ng kabutihan. Ngayon, magkakasama na sila ng pagkakataong magabitang-gitna. Iisanahan natin sila sa pagsapit ng kanilang mga kalayaan.

Sa mga nasalanga na pamang lalang sa bansa, ito ang sking kalooban: sanin ang pagbabalik ng tiwala at pagtutulungan ng pag-uusa sa mga "mahalagang appointments." Isang ay magsilbi bang bahala sa mga mag-help na pagpapalay ang kabuhan na kalalaanang nakasasaya sa ng mayroon.

Sa mga kumpalasi sating mga kababayan, ngayon, ang pamahalaan ang magsisimulan ang pinagsagilagan.

Ang simulaan ng ito ay isa kung saan kaya at ang tuwing pangako ay nagkakasiido pasis sa pagkabuo—kung pinamalagat na ipinagako ko noong kampanya at tinanggap nitoy noong ako ang halalan.

Ngaon natin noong kampanya: "Kung walang tawapt, walang makanap." Hindi lamang ito pang slogan o pang poster—ito ang mga pinangarap ng mayoryan at napinilihang halayan ng aking administrasyon.

Ang aking pangunahing tungkulin ay ang magsilbi ng maayos ang lahat ng mga tao sa kalooban, sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatupad ng kompanyo at mahusay pamamahalat sa pamahalaan.

Ang unang hakbang ay ang pagkakaroon ng tawid at tapat na liderato ng mga pinuno. Magsisimula ito sa akin. Sinikapin kong maging isang modelong ehemplo. Hindi ng hihili ko ang mga ang kwalang ipinagkakait sa ating mga kababayan. Ito ang mga ito ang sabihan ng aking Gabinete at ng mga tinggang kasama ko at ng pamahalaan.

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PRESIDENT'S PLEDGE President Benigno Aquino III promises to lead by example.

Hindi natin ipagpapalibot ang mga pangangailangan ng ating mga kalabayan, kayo't dahapin nating pamunu ang kalalangan sa ating mga dibi-anihan.

Umi-ang din natin balawasan ang mga kalalangan sa mgaasa-ahlica para sa transportasyon, turismo at panganakalad. Mula ngayon, hindi na pawawale ang "pawale na" pagbabig sa mga kalye, kaloy at panalo dahil magsisipag responsibilidad ng mga konstruksiona pawatibilidad tanu mahusay kalapayan ang mga proyekto nila.

Kabalayte natin ang programang "emergency employment" ng daring Naipaling Gawaan Agaian sa pagbabayan ng mga bagong imprastrakturan nila. Kung magbibigay ng trabaho-on mga level na kontrasidad at mahalaga-lang sa pagpapalago ng kanila at siguring ekonomiya.

Hindi kaiat magbigay tanda ng suyong panahit at pasensya. Pahahasin natin ang kalalangan at pagsisikap nanin ang kompanyo sa Kasapihan ng Bansa Unidas at Bansa at Caribbean para mapaunlahan natin ang ating mga timahanged para sa isibat, tulad ng:

- Dobahilad na rehabasyon, habi, lang ang rehabasyong behasawad para makabangon ang mga nasalanga na mula ho ang bindi makapag-kalaya.
- Isebisyong pangkalusugan, tulad ng Philhealth para sa lahat at look-ng tatlong taon.
- Tinhan sa look ng mga ligtas na komunidad.

Hindahasin at palalagain natin ang bilang ng ating kamendahalan at kapolisan, hindi para tayanan ang incidents ng mga nagbabarikadan, ngunit para pawakayan ang mamamayan. Ibinaya nila ang kanilang buhay para mapayong pagkakatao at kapayapaan sa nanbayanan. Dapatdin na ang pagsasakripisyo nila.

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Ang pamahalaan ay nakatuon sa kalampag kumapo sa kanaya. Hindi nanaing pahiray ang kalakatan ng walang pamanggasan at roday na pang-sago.

Ily gawernasan will be sincere in dealing with all the peoples of Mindanao. We are committed to a peaceful and just settlement of conflicts, inclusive of the interests of all—may they be Lumads, Bangsamoro or Christian.

We shall defeat the enemy by siezing the tools of justice, social reform and equitable governance leading to a better life. In tatawag-tawagdin-la, pagsisla ang bahay ng labas, at sa bahay sa magsisilo, sino pa ang gagantihing lumalik sa panahon ng pang-aapi?

Kung kaanu-ano kayo, maninaypay-od ninin ang isang bayan kung ang mamamayan ay nagkakaisa. Ang pamahalaang nating ginagampanan ang sking mga pananagutan.

Kumakalat lamang, ang bawat isa sa atin ay naniniligan sa presidente. Ikamo tayo nasi at sking kampanan at kumawaya. Hindi tayo umasa sa tungkulin nating ipagbuhan ang kanyang-sking isa.

Pagkatapos ng hilangan, pinatuloy ang pagtutulungan ang ang tao ang tunay na lakas ng bayan.

Ito ang kabalagalaan ng ating demokrasya. Ito ang pinilayan ng ating pagkakaisa. Nanggamayan tayo para sa pagbabago. Inihalibe nan-noo mull ang Pilipino. Tayong lahat ay kabilang sa isang bansa lang nasi kasalo nang mangangarap.

To our friends and neighbors around the world, we are ready to take our place as a reliable member of the community of nations, a nation serious about its commitments and which honors its treaties and acts with international responsibilities.

We will be a predictable and consistent place for investments, a nation where everyone will say "is all works."

Inantayan ako ko kayo ngayon na matatapos na ating mga unahi, sa unang-noon. PAUL-SAGAPAN!

Walang panagtapahap bayan at gawaan na walang sesawang dahilay. Walang pagtatahilad at mga sahlang hinyanan noong kampanya, ngayon at hanggang sa mga matatad pang pagtubok na pagbabalasan at hab ng pagtitis.

Walang lamangan, walang padrino at walang pagtatakbo. Walang walang-wang, walang counterflow, walang lotig. Hindalan na ngang kayo at mag-umpisang gawa.

Handitin kayo ngayon dahil nating ang mga tanodnigan at magtawala na may pag-asa.

The people who are bathed to dared to dream. Today, the dream starts to become a reality. Sa inyong mga nagtulip pa lang isidang kayo at pagpasan ng ating kina, isa lang ang aking hiling: Huwag tayo tumalo, sa ka pa ba kayo nanlo?

Kayo ang bawa ko, kayo! Ikaw nasaning hindi ako makaing sa mga sinan ninyo. We will design and implement an interaction and feedback mechanism that can effectively respond to the people's needs and aspirations.

Kaya ang magtulin ay akin sa panahong ito—ang aking mga sakon-sorts—marunda, bata, celebrity ordinaryong tao, na nasakot sa Pilipinas para ikompanyan ang pagbabago; ang aking mga kasamahan sa mga sahlan ang bawat isa; ang aking mga kapamilya at kaanyado na hanang kinang nangangkap; at ang mahyan-sking Pilipinong naghatan, nagtawala at hindi nawalan ng pagasa—mas mapa ang aking tawa pa.

Hindi ito makakayang hanapin ang aking mga maapdang, at kayong mga nagtulin sa akin sa pagtu ng bulay kang ito, kung hindi ko maisakatuparan ang aking mga kinisawang salita ay sawa ito.

Ito ang aking sagot sating mga tanong at dasal for nothing less than democracy, peace and prosperity I am blessed by the legacy I shall carry the torch forward.

Lamnin ko na sa pagtitis ko sa katungkulan, maaasahi ng lahat na ako ay magsisilbi ng tapat at may pagkakaisa ng aking mga kapwa pagkakaisa at mas maganda na sa kinabukasang kapamilya natin sa susunod na henerasyon. Samahan nawa ako sa pagtupdap ng lahat na ito. Tayo na sa unsid na landas.

Maraming salamat po at nabuhay ang nanbuwang Pilipino!

## Might have been 5-minute joy ride to Luneta

By Christine G. Avendaño

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A JOY RIDE, after all.

As per account of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the three-minute ride she shared with Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III on the way to his inauguration yesterday as the 15th President of the country was a pleasant one.

Reporters asked Arroyo, who also yesterday began her new career as a congresswoman, whether she and Mr. Aquino carried on a conversation during the short ride from Malacañang to the Quirino grandstand.

She said "of course" they did talk.

Asked what her she gave her successor any advice, she said: "I don't really give advice but I did touch on reconciliation and the idea that we have an education headed by Fr. [Bienvenido] Nebres of Ateneo."

She said she endorsed the report of the task force which made several recommendations on reforms in the country's education system.

Arroyo did not elaborate.

Created in 2009, the task force recommended 12 years for basic education as well as additional pay for teachers.

Former Education Secretary Edilberto Evangelista said in a phone interview that Arroyo told her she was pleased with her talk with Mr. Aquino.

Nebres said that Arroyo had earlier told her and other Cabinet members that she intended to take up with the new President the report of the task force.

Nebres said that Arroyo was very happy when she told her that she had handed over the report to Aquino.

"He was pleased to receive it from the President," Nebres said.

**Education reforms**

The report was signed by Fr. Nebres, whose task force included Salceda as well as the heads of the Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and Professional Regulatory Commission.

**Strengthen local boards**

One of the task force's recommendations was for the setting up of a permanent body that would "harmonize reforms and recommend the education system," Salceda said.

Another recommendation was to strengthen the local school boards.

The report also aimed to give all children a school education and achieve a zero dropout rate in schools, Nebres added.

She said the report also voiced hopes that teachers would be able to finish high school.

"The report will be a big help to President Aquino on his developmental agenda on education," Nebres said.

**Meeting on the stairway**

In a white terno, Arroyo was all smiles when she descended the Malacañang staircase at 10:20 a.m. and met her successor at the seat's landing before they rode together to the Rizal Park.

Some of Aquino's aides noted that while Mr. Arroyo was able to get the waving photo-dentist on because TV crew and media photographers broke through the security cordon. With a report from Inquirer Central Luzon

# GMA to get fair share of pork, Belmonte vows

By Christine V. Esguerra

THERE'S GOOD NEWS AND BAD news for new Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when she officially joins the House of Representatives this month.

Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., the presumptive House Speaker in the next Congress, promised to give her "pork barrel" like the rest of the congressmen.

Arroyo was also assured that she would not be mistreated by her political detractors when they crossed paths within the halls of the Batasan Complex.

**Not Mrs. President**

But other than these guarantees, Arroyo could expect no committee chairmanships, owing to her being a member of the minority bloc, according to Belmonte.

Asul asked if he would give Arroyo the courtesy of addressing her as "Mrs. President," Belmonte said: "Of course not!"

"(I will address her as) Madame Congresswoman, the lady from the second district of Pampanga," he told reporters in Mandaluyong.

Such is the responsibility that awaits Arroyo, who made history by becoming the first Philippine president to continue her political life by serving with a much lower elective office, in this case, Congress.

**Quiet leader**

Arroyo initially ended her nine-year presidency at noon yesterday, giving way to the country's 15th chief executive, President Aquino.

Belmonte said Arroyo was officially out of the speakership race "because she has, in fact, ended her term as (the children's) representative."

Arroyo earlier announced that she would serve as a quiet leader of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD party, who is supported to Bohol Allay Rep. Edcel Lagman against Belmonte.

The new boss thing for successor of Arroyo's stature would naturally be a committee chairmanship. But as per House tradition, neophyte representatives are not allowed to head committees.

"She's with the minority so of course, she won't get any chairmanship," Belmonte said. "But she can still choose to be member of the committees where her expertise may be."

Belmonte said he/she would also not be left out in the distribution of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), also known as "pork barrel."

Belmonte said she will get her "pork," "the same as everybody else." "Walang ere dun! (I get it because there's no money) we all get it on the same basis," he said.

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# New House building, new solons

By Leila B. Salaverria

SPEAKER PROSPERO NOGRALES spent his last day in office making room for the lawmakers who will inhabit the 15th Congress, which includes his ally, former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Nograles yesterday afternoon led the inauguration of the gleaming, low-energy, P3.6-billion House of Representatives building which houses conference rooms and offices for its deputy speakers and an additional 80 lawmakers.

Office space has become a problem for the House of Representatives after the Supreme Court last year increased the number of party-list lawmakers. The number of district representatives has also increased after lawmakers carved out new districts from various provinces.

A total of 287 lawmakers are expected to make up the 15th congress, but the rooms in the existing building could number 220.

Mr. Arroyo, a first-time congressman, has been offered one of the corner offices in the House's new building. This was because of her position as former President, House secretary general Marilyn Yap had said.

Yap also earlier acknowledged that assigning rooms to the lawmakers poses a dilemma, with the shortage of office space. In the 14th Congress, the secretary general had to put the new party-list lawmakers in makeshift rooms carved out from conference rooms.

With the opening of the new building, the burden of assigning rooms is expected to be lighter.

Senior members of the House, meaning the third-termers of congress, are to be given priority in assigning the rooms in the new building, according to Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III.

But if they don't want to move to the new building, second-termers could get a crack at those new offices, Tañada said.

The building has wide corridors, spacious lobbies on every floor, and conveniences conference rooms.

# US, China gov'ts cite immigration bureau

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED States and China have cited the Bureau of Immigration for its "high degree of professionalism and efficiency in public service."

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan has received on Monday separate citations from the two governments at a program dubbed "Pasasalamat" held after a flag raising ceremony at the bureau's main building in Intramuros.

US said China also commended Libanan and the bureau for their active role in the arrest and deportation of American and Chinese fugitives who sought refuge in the Philippines.

Libanan received a plaque from US State Department Diplomatic Security Service and Overseas Criminal Investigative for his "commitment to excellence, service and outstanding performance" as immigration commissioner and for unwavering support to Washington's efforts in locating and arresting American fugitives in the country.

**Chinese citation**

Dan Ochbi, the US embassy's deputy chief for law enforcement, and Thom Lewis, special agent for diplomatic service, were dispatched by US embassy to award the plaque to Libanan.

In a separate citation, the Chinese consul general in Manila, Liu Jinsong, together with Consuls Wang Hao and Wang Xiao Bo, praised Libanan for extending the bureau's unwavering support to Beijing's law enforcement programs, particularly in busting, arresting and deporting Chinese fugitives hiding in the Philippines.

Li also thanked Libanan for "demolishing the taboo on the entry and exit of Chinese nationals to and from the Philippines which ensured their free link to 'peace and reunification' in the country."

Other bureau officials who received plaques of recognition from the US government were Fiona Bolan, immigration spokesperson and FBI legal attaché; and Antonio Rivera, ISI Deportation Unit chief, who were built on the participants in the bureau's campaign against foreign fugitives.

Last month, Libanan also received a citation from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) expressing the US government's gratitude to the bureau for its support to the FBI campaign to catch American fugitives. The citation was signed by FBI Director Robert Mueller in Washington, DC.

**THE DAILY GOSPEL**

Thursday, July 1, 2010
13th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Am 7:10-17
Gospel: Mt 9:1-8

Jesus got back into the boat, crossed the lake again, and came to his hometown. Then they brought a paralyzed man to him, lying on a bed. Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, "Courage, my son! Your sins are forgiven."

Then some teachers of the Law said to themselves, "This man insults God! Only God can accept all sins they have thinking, and said, "Why have you such evil thoughts? Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Stand up and walk!' You must know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He then said to the paralyzed man, "Stand up! Take your stretcher and go home." The man got up, and went home.

When the crowds saw this, they were filled with awe and praised God for giving such power to human beings.

Commentary:

"Some people brought to him a paralyzed man lying on a mat."

*Without the help of others*
*some of us*
*simply cannot do what the rest who*
*are the greatest*
*Jesus expects for us to take care of one an other*


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MDH receives 2 Philippine Quality awards

# Lamppost scam: Court denies contractor's plea

By Edwin C. Tinoloc Jr.

THE ANTIGRAFT COURT Sandiganbayan has denied a petition to disregard amended graft charges against a private contractor and seven regional public works officials in connection with the installation of some P260 million worth of allegedly overpriced lamppost in Cebu province's four years ago.

In a resolution, the Sandiganbayan 6th Division denied the "motion to vacate information" filed by businessman Isabelito Ureta as well as the motion to defer arraignment filed by former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) regional director Robert Lim and his co-accused.

The Office of the Ombudsman originally filed six cases in connection with the alleged overpricing of some 1,800 lampposts installed in Mandaue, Cebu and Lapu-Lapu cities for the 3.6-k manufacture of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in 2006.

Criticized for its weak prosecution, the graft prosecutors withdrew the case filed in the 4th Division while exacting judgment in two other divisions were reinvestigated. In May the Ombudsman filed amended information on the cases.

**Right to speedy trial**

Ureta, owner of Palmdo Construction and Equipment Supply Co. Inc., then filed a motion to disregard the new information filed with the 6th Division, arguing that the delay due to the reinvestigation and the filing of a new case violated his constitutional right to a speedy trial.

He noted that the Ombudsman started its reinvestigation six months after the withdrawal of the original case and took another six months to complete it.

The court, however, ruled that the delay was justified since the new information filed carried a different offense and thus, new evidence.

Said the court: "The filing of new information is not without bar. When requiring within or superior on the part of the prosecution. Proving the veracity or accuracy of that case is another thing."

**Sufficient in substance**

Lola and his co-accused also questioned the new information filed against them, saying the Ombudsman had not been clear on the specific violations they were being accused of.

But the court ruled that the information was "sufficient in substance," adding that "the specifics sought need not be stated in the information as they are basically evidentiary."

Lola had filed the omnibus motion for a bill of particulars and debarment of his co-accused. He was accused with the DPWH regional officials Marlina Abiera, Purisa Fernandez, Clemente Bagsic, Apolinario Sherman, Luis Gotang and Bernard Sana.

## *17 more party list reps to be proclaimed*

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) hopes to proclaim 17 more party-list representatives this week, bringing to 16 the number of proclaimed second nominees in Congress.

"If we have 17 more, maybe we can proclaim a total of 30 within the week," Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said in an interview.

The Comelec en banc, acting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBOC), has already proclaimed 31 party-list congressmen from various party-list groups that participated in the May 10 national elections.

Sarmiento said the NBOC recently received tallies that would enable them to make additional proclamations of 17 party-list officials.

The first batch of party-list representatives were proclaimed after the NBOC established that the remaining seats will not affect their standing in the party-list race.

After his work, the remaining seven party-list congressmen will have to wait until results from areas that held rejected elections are received by the NBOC, Sarmiento said.

"We cannot include the last-minute because of the gap or margin, which is 1,000 or 10,000. Also, their status is still uncertain because we still have rejected elections," said Sarmiento.

Kristine L. Alave

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## KMU bids for P125 wage hike

THE MILITANT LABOR group Bilyang Mayo 1ma (KMU) yesterday said it would oppose moves in the new Congress for a P125 across-the-board and nationwide legislated wage hike to help workers get by in increasingly hard economic times.

KMU chair Elmer Labog said he was disappointed that President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III failed to mention in his inaugural address what workers have long expected him to address: substantial wage increase.

"We may have mentioned grand promises for change, but he left out workers' simple and straightforward demand for a substantial wage increase. He spends full more of the Filipino workers' expectation," Labog said in a statement.

Days before his inauguration, workers led by KMU crowded in Quezon's home at Times Street in Quezon City to register their call for a P125 nationwide legislated wage hike to the new administration.

"It would be hard for workers to imagine the realization of poverty and hunger when Filipinos do not have anything to spend on to eat," Labog said.

The labor leader said minimum wage levels across the nation and the rising daily cost of living are "obscene again."

Jeremiah Arnisa

Dabil sa Inyong Pagtangkilik

# Sukli sa Suki

## ng mercury drug Anniversary Raffle Promo

March 1 - July 31, 2010

*3 Winners from Metro Manila*
*1 Winner from Luzon*
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*1 Winner from Mindanao*

Photos may vary from the actual prize

### Promo Mechanics

**HOW TO JOIN:**

**A)** For every P300.00 single purchase (cash or credit card) at any Mercury Drug stores nationwide, customer(s) is/are entitled to one (1) raffle coupon.

**B)** Customer(s) must write legibly his/her complete name, address and zip code, telephone numbers and signature on the entry stub(s) of the raffle coupon/s and drop them in designated drop boxes located at all Mercury Drug stores nationwide.

**PROMO RULES:**

1) Promo period starts on March 1 and ends on July 31, 2010.

2) Nationwide raffle draw will be held simultaneously in four (4) Regions (Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) on Sunday, August 15, 2010 in the presence of DOH-BFAD representatives.

3) Deadline for the submission of customer's raffle entries shall be on July 31, 2010 as the closing hour of each Mercury Drug store except for all 24 hours store operations which is at 12:00 midnight. Late raffle entries will not be accepted.

4) All prices are tax paid and not convertible to cash.

5) Winners whose name are drawn more than once during the particular draw shall be awarded the prize with higher value.

6) Names of winners will be published in major newspapers of nationwide circulation. They will also be notified either by mail, telegram, text messages, or telephone as to how, when and where to claim their prizes.

7) To claim the prize, winners must present any valid Identification Card (Driver's License / SSS / GSIS Passport / School / Company ID) and the raffle ticket's claim stub.

8) Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after the announcement of winners in the newspaper or after notification will be forfeited in favor of Mercury Drug Corporation.

9) Raffle Coupons bear no serial numbers but have security code/marks approved by BOM.

10) Employees of Mercury Drug Corporation and its subsidiaries, its advertising agency, its concessionaire partner, including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity and/or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promo.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| MARCH 1 TO JULY 31 2010 | AUGUST 15 2010 (Sunday) | Metro Manila (Visayas/Luzon) | Mercury Drug G Perez Cainta - Cainta, Rizal | 3 Winners Mitsubishi L300 FB Diesel | 10 Winners Mercury Drug Gift Cert worth 1,000.00 each | 10 Winners (NWD / Charitable Institution) P25,000.00 each |
| | | Luzon | Mercury Drug Angeles, #145 Nepomuceno Angeles City | 1 Winner Mitsubishi L300 FB Diesel | 10 Winners Mercury Drug Gift Cert worth 1,000.00 each | |
| | | Visayas | Mercury Drug Cebu Fuente Branch Cebu City | 1 Winner Mitsubishi L300 FB Diesel | 10 Winners Mercury Drug Gift Cert worth 1,000.00 each | |
| | | Mindanao | Mercury Drug Davao Ripple Branch Ripple, Davao City | 1 Winner Mitsubishi L300 FB Diesel | 10 Winners Mercury Drug Gift Cert worth 1,000.00 each | |
| TOTAL NO. OF WINNERS | | | | 6 WINNERS | 360 WINNERS | 10 WINNERS |

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# OPINION

## A mandate for change

IT WAS ONLY RIGHT THAT PRESIDENT BENIGNO Aquino III used his inaugural address to draw a sharp contrast between the previous administration and the new, because the results of the May 10 elections were all about change. His campaign for the presidency, indeed the very premise of his improbable candidacy, was the promise of change.

**EDITORIAL**

But it was a specific kind of change, not change for its own sake, but a return to the moral clarity and civic assumptions that lie at the root of the democratic project: that public office is a public trust, that the public interest trumps self-interest, that the elected and the appointed are, in the new President's words, "here to serve and not to lord over you."

Of the many things we can quote from his 21-minute address, perhaps the following sustained passage is best. (We're using the text of the official English translation; it doesn't carry the same impact of the original passage, especially the bit about the bats on the "wing-wang," the blaring siren that had come to symbolize the high-handedness of the previous administration, but it will have to do.)

"No more junkets, no more senseless spending. No more turning back on pledges made during the campaign, whether today or in the coming challenges that will confront us over the next six years. No more influence-peddling, no more patronage politics, no more smiling. No more silence, no more short cuts, no more bribes. It is time for us to work together once more."

The strokes of "no more" paint up much of what was wrong with the previous administration and which drove the great majority of Filipino voters to vote for someone other than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's official or perceived candidate for president. It serves to condense massive grievances the new administration's "watching inders" (to use a characteristic turn of phrase of the new President's). It ranges from the simple enough (the ban on the use of "wang-wangs") to the truly complicated (the real, not only of bribes, but of patronage politics, which is the matrix from which the corrupt emerge).

Another much-applauded passage was President Aquino's direct order to the new justice secretary, Leila de Lima, to "Begin the process of providing true and complete justice for all"—in part because the politicization of the administration of justice, especially since 2004, was a constant source of the "suffering" that President Aquino rightly said had been imposed on the Filipino people.

We wish the President had said something more specific about his plans to bring an end to the communist insurgency. We also wish he had framed his first official and indeed most ceremonial speech from a longer historical perspective; it was certainly animated by a sense of history, but one that was both recent and personal. We would have all benefited from a reading of history that placed his parents, not a national hero and the other a democratic icon, in our long tradition of patriotic self-sacrifice and heroism. (After all, the tradition that almost un to many bits as the country's 15th president is a generous one, which includes even Jose P. Laurel of the puppet republic).

But the inaugural address, short twice as long as advertised, managed to discuss some of the most pressing problems the country faces, including the need to promote the true interests of the country's millions of farmers, the imperative of creating more jobs at home to slow the exodus of Filipinos migrating abroad, the search for an honorable peace in Mindanao and the continuing need—a generation after his mother popularized the principle—to recognize the fact that "there can be no reconciliation without justice."

The true heart of the inaugural speech, however, lay in the new President's identification with ordinary citizens. The transformative magic of direct elections allowed Aquino, the scion of one of the country's wealthiest families and proud bearer of the oasis patois native to Philippine politics, to claim "I am like you"—and to be taken at his word. In his sincerity, in his actuations since his mother passed away last August, and above all in his campaign, millions of Filipinos have indeed come to see the man the entire country calls "Noynoy" as "just like us." Now that's a change.

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## Decency and the presidency

PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

TODAY BELONGS, OF COURSE, TO OUR NEW president, Rodrigo "Noynoy" Aquino III. That means it is like the first day we don't have Cha-cha (Sharpgugil-Arroyo) as president. What a great difference that realization instantly brings! It is as if a heavy curtain of demonstration is suddenly drawn, and quickly we regain our bearings. Once more we can see our strengths and look to the future with hope. There is recovery around us, and we feel there is almost nothing we cannot do from here on in to make things better for the nation. In the new president newly put it in his inaugural speech: "We can dream again."

Every change in government brings such a rush, a moment of intoxication rising. Toppling this curse of epic kind from a nation can dramatically rebuild itself. But great expectations also accompany transitions like this. President Noy knows this only too well. He first saw it when fateful events made his mother president of the country in 1986. He has said that he will do his best to turn the country around in the next six years, but he also warns that he is not a superman. He need not worry.

Contrary to the general view, I think our people have learned a lot from the painful experience of governance set to reject much from their leaders. They are aware that no government can possibly conquer poverty overnight, and so they have learned how to cope with extreme deprivation. Indeed they have learned to call a moment like this "once-in-a-blue-moon." They also know the corruption has become so widespread in our society that it may take at least a whole generation to purge it from the system and from ourselves. So, they do not expect Noy to create miracles in the next six years.

But this they expect from those who govern them: responsiveness and, above all, decency.

That means basically: don't lie, don't steal and don't cheat. Don't catch yourself while in office. Follow the spirit of the law, more than the letter. Do not ask your lawyers for advice on how to interpret the law in order to get what you want. Ask them rather what is right and what is just.

Talk to the people and listen to them. Take time to converse with the youth, know their dreams and ambitions. Use and word simply, remembering always that it's the people's money you're using. Work hard, but be flexible about what you can and cannot do. Public service is a shared burden. Tell the people how they can help the government. Lead by example.

There is a time and place for reporting on the state of the nation, its problems, the plans of government, and its accomplishments. Please do not put your name and your photo graph on every public project. These are achievements of the entire government, if not of the whole nation. Our people will know what you have done very well. If their leaders have served them well, they will feel the difference in their lives. Only the insecure will find it necessary to remind them what government has done for them.

Resist the blandishments of people who want to name even conceivable highway, bridge, post or building after your illustrious persons. The naming disease, so pervasive in our culture, only trivializes the admiration and affection that a grateful nation has shown and on them out of its own volition. In short, memorates don't quickly in the hearts of our people.

Be focused on what you need to do. But respect the nation's institutions. They have been battered beyond recognition, tainted into personal tools of unaccountable politicians. Do everything to rebuild them, for only in this manner will the people's faith in their government be restored.

Serve the poor. Look after the needs of the most unfortunate. Their current miserable circumstances should not be passed on to their children, but don't make political capital out of their misery. You are not their patron, but the head of their government.

Treat your ex-workers in government with gratitude and respect. They are not your servants but the nation's. Demand competence and dedication, but do not prejudge them. Most of them love our country as much as you do.

Observe decadency even if you know you will never be jailed for violating it. This Ignatian word, which has found its way into our culture, is just another word for ethical conduct. The people have the lack of intolerance it not imprisonment; for a president, it is worse: the withdrawal of public esteem. Perhaps no one knows this better by now than your immediate predecessor.

Finally, you must know that government is not the only game in town. As the world becomes more complex, you may sometimes make the wrong decisions. If you think you have made a grievous error in judgment, and you need to explain it to the nation, do so in all sincerity, and without wanting to be told by a retinue group.

At the end of his term, how shall we judge a president's performance? It is difficult to say. We will focus on the achievement of economic growth, some on the elimination of mass poverty, but others will look at the eradication of corruption from our public life. I would argue that a good president is one who, by his abiding decency as a leader, makes us all proud to be part of this nation.

* * *

Email: public.lives@gmail.com

## The day after

THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

DAYS BEFORE SUNDAY AQUINO TOOK HIS oath of office yesterday, I heard several people express their misgivings about his plans for the next 100 days. Says the only his professed desire to concentrate on penetrating the people who led, chaired, stole and murdered during the previous regime—what a theft it is to say that now the previous regime!—chief of them Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, instead of building a nation. Who remained that on the eve of his inauguration by stating he was thinking of forming a Truth Commission with Filipino Chinese in it.

I disagree with the critics and endorse P-Noy's tack completely unsentimentally. The reason for that is not just that I have been calling for just such a Truth Commission for the several months, a Truth Commission not unlike the ones South Africa and Argentina formed at the end of apartheid and a reign of terror, respectively, a Truth Commission we should have had after the downfall of the Marcos regime. (Ditto calls now for less dispersion than likewise, notwithstanding that it arose the trappings of democracy continue for the mind-boggling slaughter of journalists and political activists that took place in it. Ka Edith Burgos and the members and fathers of the disappeared and "salvaged" need to get justice or this country will not move forward.

After the first false, in 1986, I applauded the new economic team that included Jimbo Fernandez and several UP professors for producing an economic recovery plan that had for its top sense priority the restoration of human rights. I thought it was a stroke of genius. The logic was simple: No economic agenda could possibly work without inviting on the granite foundation of truth and inadvertent, and the military elements of Mike making sure it would not.

The logic has been proven again and again. We've had a succession of governments that "talked" about economic recovery, which was presumably more "positive" than punishing liars, cheaters, crooks and murderers, and the last thing they have built is a nation. All they have produced is more lying, cheating, stealing and murdering, capped by the last regime which added rebels were detentions to them. (Ah, not quite its old really, kept calling about fostering an economic powerhouse rather than on anything else, such as respecting democracy or at least not crushing its institutions, and all the has to show for it is more tired, more poor, more hungry masses yearning to breathe free. The last other original accomplishment pattern, yes, is economic.

Quite simply, there is no contradiction between prosecuting oppressors and building a nation. The one does not detract from the other, for one reason: the other possible. You do not raise the flaky foundations of a decrepit building, all your efforts to build a magnificent edifice on it will have infinite tenants to the floor.

You do not reinforce a regime of punishing the guilty and rewarding the innocent above all, you do not make the mistake above all, corruption kills. It is the final dam is plucked out of the mouths of hungry children, it is the shelter that is taken from those that huddle in cardboard boxes beside taverns, it is the books and teachers and classrooms that ought to be there but are not there.

You do not usher in a reign of justice, you will not have discipline. The reason countries like Singapore flourish...and we're always just a Singapore-fresh or nation-building gone—is that their people naturally expect to see rules applied to rich and poor alike, to young and old alike, to men and women alike. Nothing is dead, you will go to prison, spend long, long decades there, whether you're rich or poor, young or old, man or woman. You lie, cheat, steal and murder, and the same thing happens to you.

You do not show contempt and repudiation for probity, rogue and hallmarks and tyranny will continue to haunt the land, surviving every president, every regime, every meltdown, and building not a nation but monuments to folly.

Now, I am completely for prioritizing the bombing of huts, shanties, crooks and rises down to the rank of the earth, and applaud P-Noy's resolve to see it through. But can he do it?

There's the rub. Because the current dynasty in government created by the useless—as, the losers—pretty much running it produces a dash between discrimination and capability.

I myself have always thought UBH will end up being the worst president in history. But the ability to mount a challenge to the new government, or heaven forbid, a coup, back, is simply not there. Well, she might still climb every wheel we use to looking and for the life of a statesman in figure, she has blood dribs along with kill debts to make this country a comfortable home. But given the way the new government is set up, who knows? Maybe she can still mount a challenge to it. Certainly she has no embankment issues.

Look at it from her eyes, or the eyes of all those that have been shoved aside by it. You see a government where the President and the Vice President are apart, if not at odds, elected by their bonny tobacco despite assurances to the contrary. You see that the dominant element in government is a group that, as the very least is vulnerable to being exposed itself if it should prosecute you with any zeal, having once trashed for you, and at the very most that has been known to resort to assassination done around them by the aggressiveness with which they attempt to rule those who are not with them, of them, or for them. Will you greatly fear being hounded to the ends of the earth?

Maybe P-Noy has the will, but does he have the way?

The day after, you cease yourself from the hangover and look at the world with bleary eyes.

# Why we're not into soccer (2)

A REGENT TIME MAGAZINE COVER STORY ON the World Cup 2010 games observed, "One reason why football is the world's most popular game is that it is just so accessible, you can play anywhere."

That's not exactly true. Basketball is the most accessible game for one reason: a basketball court is 10 times smaller than a football pitch, and therefore much easier to find.

A football stadium, say a Rizal stadium, is nearly impossible. Certainly not for basketball—any small street could do for a half-court game, and elementary years are always ready for the hoop. In crowded Manila, our oldest sports complex in the 1970s, they would just close a narrow street for a neighborhood fun-run tournament, and put up the two goals in the middle of the street, elevated by hollow blocks.

A football match on the other hand requires a lot of space, a big level area. The upper classes would have such spaces, of course, but to be popular, a sport has to be accessible to, and played by, the masses. And in Metro Manila, the masses just didn't have such spaces, or weren't given the space by government. Yet, football still got to be played in the streets by some poor boys in Manila, but then it is the capital which is also the social-writing editorial capital.

The need for space is the reason why in the Philippines football is classified as a sport of the rich. Elite Catholic schools like Ateneo, La Salle and the University of Santo Tomas have huge campuses, and therefore football fields. In contrast, the lousy classes' public schools like Emilio Aguinaldo High School in Lo Lotus, Bacoo High School in Tondo, and the colleges in old downtown Manila like Far Eastern University and the University of Manila have cramped properties where only basketball courts can fit in.

Painful is the dearth of football fields to our newspolers in the scarcity of open parks, a re-

OUTLOOK

*Rigoberto Tiglao*

quirement in most cities elsewhere. Our people-to-population just don't care about open spaces. Who remembers that Quezon Portal to Malacañang originally Sebastian Equite Football Field, to honor a football star in an era where open spaces and football fields were more important than offices buildings? Indeed, it's a bit symbolic of what has happened in our country: no longer a field for play, Equite's terrain is to a person are of choice. And whatever happened to the metropolitan greens spaces of the 1970s? "Greenbelts" and "Greenbelt Park" have become great misnomers.

This point to the rule a government has enforced. If creating parks and open fields isn't being done by companies, it is the state which has to fill the void. Whatever happened to the regulations that a certain percentage of commercial properties should be reserved for green areas or parks?

There is one final reason football hasn't been popular here, something that those who are fond of quoting our country should keep in mind so that they may become leaders in their areas of our nation. Where we are in the planet, there's a much truth to the adage, "Geography is destiny." We are in the planet's tropical region, with a long rainy season. Worse, we are in the first land mass to allow the two typhoon generating Pacific Ocean, and consequently get to be hit first by these storms. How can you keep interest in football, when you can't play it as often as you would like or because of continuous rains for months?

The football that I remember from high school was played in a soggy field with patches of "catches grass," a lot, for city from the monsoon-lately grass pitches you see in the World Cup games. And you would be all covered with mudy mud after a game. Remember, on the other hand, your eldest having a bow tender, but basketball you can play indoors, and in fact, many municipalities and colleges have gyms mainly designed for the game.

Unfortunately, television's power to mold culture's most easy-to-love, easy-to-hate, case of lack of social responsibility, the state's abdication of its regulatory responsibility over companies, gung rugby—all these explain why we don't play the human family's game. And they also explain many of our problems as a nation.

One being dubbed-voiced in the global game highlights the fact that we are sorely lacking in tools for nation-building. Watch the World Cup matches and you would not, say, mistreasure with their faces painted with their flag, a Christian in scenery or his national team's win, a usually reserved German lady in tears at their national team's loss, a Spaniard's quiet pride in a perfect succinct through which she finds oneness with one's fellow citizens and therefore one's nationhood is strengthened.

The closest relation we have would be the fiesta spirit fights. But he will be noticing soon in but a professional sport (indeed, we can only feel the such realities as Tropang Texters, Brgy Ginebra Gin Kings to provide some escape for our little minds.

It's a dream perhaps, but maybe it's time to dump the past and the ruins, and kick start a national football team as a nation-building project and hopefully optimistic phase.

• • •

*E-mail: rigoberto.tiglao@gmail.com*

# Corruption in the peace department (3)

THIS PIECE ENDS THE THREE-PART SERIES ON my interview with former Presidential Assistant for the Peace Process (OPP) Annabelle Abaya and her discussions on the alleged corruption that she discovered in the OPAPP.

Abaya served for eight months as the sixth PAPP. I don't know Abaya personally. She is not a personal friend or acquaintance. I have no reason to promote her agenda. What I know about her is that she is experienced in conflict resolution. She finished her master's degree in public administration at the Kennedy School at Harvard University and also has a master's degree in dispute resolution from the University of Massachusetts. She did her doctoral program in conflict resolution at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy.

Abaya is considered by the group of integrity and courage by those who know her personally. She is also exceptionally articulate, having served as spokesperson of the Ramos administration.

I received quite a number of revealing and even emotional reactions from readers (check, yours, truly, my column) to my disclosure of certain facts. Only one questioned her motives (making "pa-pogue" to newly sworn in President Benigno Aquino, to it, why only now?). Whatever Abaya's motives were, what is better, that she revealed what she knew or just keep quiet? Aren't we better off that we know?

I received a letter of explanation from her predecessor, retired Gen. Hermogenes C. Esperon, in which I will forward to the current section. Senator "Ging" Quimbo Estrada, PAPP during the Arroyo administration who resigned in 2005, is coming back as PAPP in the Aquino administration.

But I will say it again, I have heard of corruption in the OPAPP, but yesterday for the first time, I knew of a few who had resigned in disgust. Talk of personalities transmogrifying into monstrosities. There are those who say the office should be disbanded and the funds be instead poured into poverty alleviation projects that could help bring about peace.

Here is the text of the Abaya interview (continued):

HUMAN FACE

*Mr. Carlos P. Dayo*

Q. How did people take the shake-up?

A. People were relieved that those associated with the difficulties of OPAPP were out. I was careful not to put a stamp of judgment on them since I think that as human beings, they deserve dignity and have a right to defend themselves. The directives and officers of Team 10 to talk to those whom we had to let go because they did not fit the bill. Separating people is always painful and excruciating. We tried to handle this with maximum compassion.

Q. Looks like OPAPP had been in a conversion state.

A. I assure you OPAPP is in resolution. Relocations needed to, it does not slide back. In my short stint, I couldn't "inflict" more reforms without creating unbearable instability. But OPAPP is now poised for transformation. It will be a proactive, strong and highly effective team. I can see it already.

Q. You received reactions with peace partners.

A. When I first called for a meeting of peace partners, only 14 people showed up. I was told that they had not been actively engaged since the time of Chairman Nur Misuari in the 1990s. Persons resigned hurt for fear of not to inform them about what was going on but to ask for proposals for peace projects, about 500 people from 250 organizations came, including non-traditional peace partners.

Q. Are people basically suspicious of peace efforts?

A. People were suspicious of the sincerity on both sides living up to agreements, the appropriateness of Malaysia as mediator because of the unresolved border dispute with them, and initial



by the timing of dialogues. Skeptics imagined that the dialogues were election-related.

Q. Any advice for the new government?

A. I am not recommending giving unconditional release to the terrorists' personalities as to give recommendations. First, on the Misuleans challenge. It will be most helpful to encourage the OIC on its initiative to help unify the MNLF and MILF and other Islamic groups in Mindanao, for each Indonesia to continue the splendid job of mediating the peace talks, to set forth peace dialogues and state engagements until a consensus emerges on the critical issues on the table. While people want substantive end-state, the reality, given our polarized and emotional views at this time, requires that we shape the future as we go along and determine what the people are prepared the Peace is journey, not a destination.

Q. Will peace ever reign in Mindanao?

A. Peace is inevitable. Everyone wants it, especially the ordinary people who simply want to establish their livelihood, go to school, live normal lives. It requires a lot of patience. Anyone who knows peace understands that it is for the courageous and for the long haul. Thus we must act with dispatch today and steadily change peace is almost here. It builds, peace and security are already on the ground. With ceasefire agreements in place, we only need to stabilize this with a political settlement whether Islamic or comprehensive and provide greater capacity for our Bangsamoro brothers to lead and govern, bring development and growth to their highly deprived areas, and give them control over their culture and development aspirations.

Q. Will there be peace when an agreement is signed?

A. People accede so much to a peace agreement. Will signing a marriage contract guarantee that you will live happily ever after? A peace agreement is necessary to assemble the puzzle pieces for the start of your life. You keep working at it to make it better every day.

*Send feedback to: carvoplp@gmail.com or www.carvoday's.com*

# Who will teach children about their bodies?

MUCH AS I "DO" TO, I CANNOT DRINK THE true motives of the sectors that would not see sex education as an important rule of educational institutions. To provide the youth with knowledge and form the basic values for good and responsible citizenship of our Filipino youth is the constitutionally mandated function of the Department of Education (DepEd). There should really be no question about schools... whether public or private—allowing such complementary and supplemental roles.

Of course, as the basic social unit, the family should ideally be the source of the first learnings including sex education, by the children. Brawn, ex, reality check as well as empirical evidence tells us that many couple (possibly majority of Filipino families) may not have the proper social-cultural and economic background or situation to do this. Think of the parents who themselves don't have how to explain or find malice in educating their children about sex (still continuing to call the sex organs "burit" or "betlog").

Do we expect the poor dirt up to now still job might handle their young son's manhood to check "ang laki ng ari mo ngayon ah" as he is the proper sex education of their children? In a squatter section in our barangay, I saw a mother laughing, but also spanking and calling her little boy "bastos" when she checked on his bubbling erection and inspecting his "dum." In our common lane in Bicol, I saw a couple of 7- to 10-year old kids laughing and teasing a 5-year old boy who was urinating. They kept throwing and laughing "sabog sa ulan, sabog sa ulan." I cannot look at the little boy.

And what about the earlier years of menarche? The earliest sex dreams? The raging hormones that are stimulated by the unremovable breast, edge and awareness picked up from the textbooks, reviews, social movements?

HIGH BLOOD

*Cora C. Dayhoshladerar*

*NOW also like to know the concerns of the six-year-olding and above, what makes their primal preoccupations or studies them sick heads, are you that all's well with their world and with themselves.—Ed.*

The Young Adult Fertility Survey conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute in the early 1980s showed that a significant percentage of youth in local communities do not prepared properly and early enough to know when, why and how to be careful with their bodies. Or should we put make them rely on good old nature to know the difference when they are being naturally lured, as being dramatically misled?

In the early 1980s, I was with the Commission on Population (POPCOM) and in charge of sectors not coordinated with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The project was the development of the very first sex education illustrated manual, "Tatay Alo-Tatong" that targeted parents of daycare children. The development of the manual involved interviews with representative groups of parents from Cavite, Batangas and Manila who were asked to relate their actual experiences with their young children's growing sex awareness. It seemed to have been a timely helpful and important material as the DSWD requested for a second reprinting. If POP-COM or the DSWD has a copy still of the manual, they could perhaps share it with DepEd for use as a possible guide to the development of sex educa-

last prototypes.

I just reviewed the DepEd's Integrated Core Curriculum (ICC) module on "Myself" which teaches the child about his body. The DepEd did a relatively good job on the curriculum guide, but I was disappointed to see that all the body parts, their functions and care are indicated, except the sex organs. Why isolate these organs like some "deaded diseased"? Like the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, feet, these are parts of the region as well as the same are external parts of our body and each obviously has a special function that should not be taken for granted. As children are taught to proudest how to take care of his closed their bodies, why exclude the organs which could cause easily be infected if simple cleanliness is not observed? Leaving them such things is the important first step of their learning to be protective of and care for their bodies. It also becomes easier and more natural to teach them about gender differences when they start to ask, "Why can't baby sister have a dummy's (nenas) but not us daddy's chest?" or "Why can't we have pee standing up, while she must sit?"

I really hope and pray that the sectors that are most negative about the Reproductive Health Bill, especially on the matter of the teaching sex education, will start going out of their medieval mindsets and start helping out in the very special help since we are almost reaching a population count of 100 million. Now, that's where family planning and responsible education are important, but as Conrad de Quiros would say, "but that's another story."

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*Cora C. Dayhoshladerar is a preschool owner and directress, was a high school teacher in the early 1970s. She has been a developmental communication worker on family planning and maternal and child health, etc. for more than half of her working life*

# Cory lives on

CORY AQUINO LIVES ON. I AM PRETTY SURE OF THAT, just as I am pretty sure that Ninoy Aquino lives on up to this very day. And I believe I see this thing that I keeping them alive in the hearts and minds of the Filipinos, it is their eternal legacy as champions of liberty and democracy.

I have always been a big fan of that big word "legacy." My passion for my country, for the idea of leaving a legacy even after my termination from this earth. I believe that the things I write now will either be able to speak to future generations even while my lips and my hands rest in silence.

Benigno Aquino III is the 15th president of the Republic of the Philippines. And with that aroma to everyone who made his victory possible, too also, was that he owes this triumph to the legacy that his highly revered parents left him.

From recent history, the nation has been torn by contradictions. During the rise of tyranny in the 1970s and 1980s, it was Ninoy Aquino that the Filipino people were clamoring for believing that only the young and brave statesman could bring down the dictator and his cronies. Once again the first lady Fibros Ninoy was shot dead on the airport tarmac. Cory Aquino was pushed into the frontline to clue Goliath with her passion for change, her faith, and her humility, and the trust of the Filipino people.

There in the nation called for change in government, it is to another Aquino that the people turned to lead the reform movement due to lead the country from the wilderness. More and less just the big, round-eyed naive reminiscent of his parents' which he now wears, Noynoy carries with him the name Aquino which evokes true and high expectations not just among the millions of people who supported him but even in the rest of the world which has long admired the Aquino family for its courage. Like his mother, by becoming president, Noynoy has fulfilled what was destined for his father.

It was the death of Ninoy that brought Cory from the shadows of grief into the light of hope for the country. And it was the death of Cory that brought him into the light of electoral victory. Here, as Time Magazine put it, the King became.

It was the legacy of his mother, President Cory Aquino, which brought him from the shadows of near anonymity and into the limelight of politics. Before Cory died in August 2009, Noynoy's name was known only to those who were in the running for the highest position. Nobody thought he would fit the job. After all, aside from the prominent name he inherited, Noynoy didn't so have the larger than life quality demanded of presidential candidates.

But after Cory's death, there was an instant clamor for Noynoy to run for president. When asked about this, he begged off at first, noting that during mourn his love for family that was called upon to help solve the problems created by his dreaded Mamat. Now he said his family was being asked to serve again and that looked like too much of an imposition. However, Cory's death was so traumatic that it refused to heed the chance for her to run against Marcos. Someone must found himself accepting the challenge. And soon the surveys showed him leading his rivals by wide margins.

Indeed Mayor Jejomar Binay also benefited from the "Cory magic." Being put on the ticket with Noynoy, he rode on the high vibes of Noynoy and Binay proved that the magic still works. President Cory or at least her memory remains supreme political force in our democracy.

Cory lives on. Her death brought back to life the country's dying democracy and the hope that change is still possible. Her ideals continue to shape the history of this nation and her life and example continue to inspire the Filipino people. She will continue to live for as long as the Filipinos continue to believe in democracy.

• • •

*Jello Bryant De Los Reyes, 23, is a mass communication graduate of the Philippine Christian University-Manila.*

# Where to begin

*Bernice Gaña*

I CROSSED THE BRIDGE IN QUIAPO A FEW WEEKS AGO, and as usual, I turned to get a good look at the Pasig River. It was not because I thought the river was beautiful (though it did look rather pretty under the early morning sun). I did it out of habit. As a child, I had always been enchanted by the river; passing over it, as in every time my parents took me along to their office, I found it amazing that something so seemingly dark and flowing could be found in the middle of the smelly, dusty city. But this time as I looked at the river, I saw a large stretch of brown water that inspired anything but awe. I realized that there was a big difference between what I was seeing and what I was remembering.

When I looked around, I saw things that I had always known were there but never paid attention to. I saw people huddled and sleeping on the sidewalks and an old man pressing out of a cardboard box. I saw a tiny child running in and out of oncoming traffic and a grimy woman dressing up a street corner, clutching an equally dirty baby, and afraid to cross the street. And I saw a policeman in a big truck cut that was forcing commuters out of the way, even though he was doing nothing for the country aside from blocking the roads with his oversized presence.

All this while, I kept up to the streamers on concrete way to, and the first thing that came to my mind was, "Hmm, things are bad, but what can I do about it?"

In school, they always ask questions like, "As a teenager, what would you do about this or that?" And as teenagers, we answer without actually thinking about the problems. But now I felt I had to give a serious answer to the question: What can I do for the country?

My brothers and my parents repeatedly told me that one thing I could do now to some about our country's problems and make people aware of them. I also thought that the university could be essential to me that people who read newspapers already knew about these problems. So I thought of an other answer, something the speakers asked to impress upon the during a leadership training seminar last August. As the classes was wont to be, brother words, start with yourself.

Sure, that was nothing new either. It's not like everyone hasn't heard these words before or hasn't been told a thousand times to start the change for the better. It is not something that everyone wants to hear or need again. But I'm saying it anyway because I am hoping that this time people will finally sit up and listen (although I sort of doubt it). Just because we have to start somewhere and it doesn't mean that should sit back and let him do all the work. We have to give him a reason that our motives itself, that will work with him to achieve a common goal, a nation that will collectively rise up from the proverbial ashes and dirty.

But where to start? I don't know. I haven't even started yet! So I will. I will be the change I want to be.

• • •

*Bernice Gaña, 15, is a senior at the School of the Holy Spirit of Quezon City.*

# High hopes for immediate end to human rights abuse

LETTERS

THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE REPORT that one of the "Morong 43" is in the hospital. [Inquirer, 6/12/10] There is great hope in the Philippines welcome to Mr. President, the son of two great icons of Philippine democracy. Expectations are high that justice will be served the victims of human rights violations and that all political prisoners will immediately and unconditionally be released. President Noynoy Aquino and his sisters need no reminder of the suffering his parents silently went through when their father was held in prison as a political prisoner for more than seven years.

Suckland Philippines Solidarity joins all freedom-loving people in asking President Aquino to immediately free all political prisoners just as his mother did right after the inauguration of the Marcos dictatorship. We are aware that among the 43 community health workers illegally detained on fabricated charges is Jane Ibabao Ballon, a granddaughter of the late Sis Bel. She suffered serious epileptic seizures due to extreme stress caused by detention. Worse, two of the 43 detainees are pregnant women inexcusably deprived of the solidarity of their homes and families. The babies in the wombs of these two mothers who have been tortured and illegally detained have also become victims of state brutality.

When Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo visited New Zealand and many other countries, she was greeted with protests over the endless series of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture and illegal detention during her watch, including the detention of the 43 given false leader Crispin "Ka Dio" Beltran. If the new President Aquino does not wish to be met with the same protests in his future trips abroad, he simply must fulfill his campaign promise to give redress to the victims of human rights violations and abuses of the past administrations.

If the Filipino people, here particularly, the landless peasants and exploited workers like the ones in the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita, indigenous peoples, and others displaced by the massive militarization of communities, will continue human rights abuses and economic injustices, let concerned citizens of Aotearoa/New Zealand still be working with the whole world, and will continue to support international pressure to press President Aquino to fulfill the Philippines' obligations under the international conventions on human rights.

—HELEN TE HEKA,
convener, Auckland Philippines Solidarity,
New Zealand, helent@ihc.org.nz

## Savings from mini-ATM at Daet post office

AFTER MY CARD (LBP) WAS TWICE rejected by three banks and BPI ATMs due to "Host quality OSS declined (too many bad)" [inquirer, 6/4/10, 1:00:00] late (before dawn) of withdrawing my June 2010 pension (but one of the ATMs in downtown Daet, instead, I tried to do this through the LBP ATM in Daet's Postal Office. I was there on June 9 mailing (return to the inquirer.) Postmaster Betty Mora was very accommodating. (he immediately requested me to come in to his office.

However, when I got inside I found no ATM. I asked where the ATM was and he politely pointed to what looked like a small sliding machine on his table. I was puzzled, knowing that to withdraw, pensioners have to insert their eCards into the ATM. But here, Ghana asked me to sit down, asked me this plate and then of my cards, simultaneously accomplished a prescribed form while at the same time clicking his mini ATM. He asked me what my middle name was and to click the Pin number, then to sign the receipt. Indeed facts, no further questions much I would withdraw and interrupted a topic, considering all the hoopla circled into the ATM, rather not. Anyhow, to amount P12,927.50 and handed it to me, explaining that the amount withdrawn was more by P22.50 which represented the transaction fee.

Thanks to the DBM for installing the mini-ATM at Daet Postal Office, the additional P12 fare notwithstanding. But no thanks for the woes on GSIS eCard.

I was tongue-tied since in downtown Daet, the ATM charged P12 for encashment, and in the post office, P1,000 was drawn. And since I withdrew P13,000, I would have been charged P36 for three withdrawals of P5,000, P5,000 and P3,000. Anyway, P12 plus P22.50 equals P34.50, or P1.50 less. So which is which now?

It's up to the pensioners.

—GODOFREDO S. PITOY, JR.
[Filial Street,
Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600


# HULYO gonna call?

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## 'Independence' under Arroyo mere reverie

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY IN THE reign of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and with the country controlled by foreign interests is a travesty. The Filipino people are still fighting for liberation from an oppressive, immoral and corrupt government controlled by a local oligarchy dominated by a new breed of capitalists and despots.

For more than nine years, the fifteen administrations implemented laws and programs that favored and advanced only the interests of the local ruling elite and foreign exploiters. As the same time, it violently suppressed dissent, illegally arrested and filed trumped-up charges against those who expressed their legitimate grievances and, worse, even killed leaders and members affiliated with progressive organizations. The Arroyo administration, during its nine years in power, only aggravated the suffering of unemployment.

Freedom of expression was repressed and the truth was concealed. While thieves were either permanently silenced or impunized, and thieves and liars were praised, or promoted, or otherwise rewarded. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's minions who were implicated in many corruption scandals and scams that implicated the First Family as well have been allowed to escape prosecution and to go scot-free.

The P10-million Independence Day celebration last June 12 (Counting GMA's so-called "achievements" was outrageous nonsense spending. The National Electrical Insurance's expensive feasts and gimmicks could not hide—never will hide—the country's widespread poverty, the multitudes of hungry children living in unimaginable misery, the 1,515 cases of extrajudicial killings and thousands of human rights violations, the crime of corruption cases, cheating, deception and concealment of truth, the failures of the government to deliver basic social services, and the many other wicked deeds against our people.

GMA and her accomplices are daydreaming if they expect the public to believe their rewarded propaganda and self-serving concept of freedom. The situation is unlike the Filipino people (let us be the case because of true freedom). A suffering people is an indication that our nation is not free.

It seems that for GMA's sycophants, freedom means the freedom to wallow in sheer luxury and excessive wealth, to loot with foreign intervention and to live in miserable poverty because the national wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few.

It is indeed a challenge for the incoming Aquino administration to work for genuine freedom which, for so long, our people have been longing for—freedom from poverty, freedom from deprivation, freedom from marginalization, freedom from exploitation and oppression, the kind of freedom that upholds human dignity and enhances social justice and lasting peace for our people.

"Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice and let the oppressed go free," Isaiah 58:6

—NARY SARNO,
secretary general,
Promotion of Church People's Response,
pcprnet@gmail.com

## Showing Bel the door

I'M GLAD THE INQUIRER FINALLY SAW THE light and showed Mrs. Bel Cunanan the door by accepting her resignation. Those who have been reading Cunanan over the years hoped—but in her case hope couldn't feel so sorry for that out personality. Mrs. Cunanan is a good writer and in her prime it takes much for language in style that makes her opinion appear eminently held, neutral and impersonal, often citing sources that fit her view of her subject.

One really has to read and follow her assiduously to know where her partisanship and loyalties lie. That a highly reputable paper like the Inquirer has tolerated her is beyond me. But like in anything, there has to be a threshold to tolerance, and Cunanan has reached it.

Frankly, I won't miss her in my favorite paper. Let the other papers have their Cunanans!

—RYAN SISO,
ryfsiso@yahoo.com

With this letter, one of many such that we received, we put point to the issue.—Editor

# GMA appointees out, Palace staff extended 1 mo

By TJ Burgonio

NONCAREER APPOINTEES OF Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are now out of government, while contractual employees have been given a one-month extension under the new regime's administration.

On his first day in office yesterday, President Aquino issued a standing order to declare all positions of presidential appointees lacking the rank of career executive service officer (Career) vacant effective noon of June 30.

The idea is "to prevent the unnecessary disruption of government operations and the impairment of all official processes and services in the delivery of services to the people," according to a Malacañan Circular No. 1 signed by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr.

The Aquino administration is leaving the enormous task of filling up the 4,500 positions coterminous with actors, including those of Cabinet secretaries, and officials in government corporations, and in agencies attached to the Office of the President.

Those are on top of the 1,800 chiefs, seniors and housekeeping staff, all casual employees whose terms were also coterminous with Arroyo who bowed out of office on Wednesday.

NOTHING TO WRITE The new President holds his first Cabinet meeting in Malacañang direct from the Quirino Grandstand. AP PHOTO

Quoting the circular, Aquino spokesman Edwin Lacierda said the most senior Cabinet would take over the vacant positions of Arroyo appointees as officers in charge until July 31, or until replacements have been appointed.

The employees whose contracts were extended to July 31, on the other hand, would be properly compensated, he added.

"Their services will be extended for a month until we receive them whether they are qualified or we terminate them," he said.

### Midnight appointments

Mr. Aquino is expected to issue a separate executive order addressing the hundreds of "11th hour" appointments made by Arroyo ahead of the March 10 constitutional ban, according to Lacierda.

"We're discussing the legalities and fine-tuning, and making sure that whatever legal decision we're going to take will be upheld," he said.

Mr. Aquino presided over his first Cabinet meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room after swearing in his Cabinet officials, along with local officials, in front Pres. Quirino Grandstand.

He also laid out concrete steps to address urgent issues he mentioned in his inaugural speech.

"In addition corruption and increase revenue collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, the administration would impose the application of the Lateral Attrition Law, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a briefing later.

Purisima said the government would focus its collection of taxes on "well-connected individuals" who contribute only 1.6 percent in the income tax collections. Tax evaders, he added, would be singled out.

### New taxes pointless

The Department of Finance hoped to consolidate the fiscal situation and reduce the budget deficit to 2 percent of the gross domestic product over three years, he said.

"What we'd like to do is increase the tax effort over that period," Purisima said. "The reason we're not targeting a balanced budget, which we believe is not necessary at this point, is to support the programmes of President Aquino supposedly social investments."

He said it was pointless to impose new taxes when the leakage is substantial, saying the alternative was to expand the tax base "so it's more equitable."

Mr. Aquino also issued directives to each Cabinet secretary to implement "zero-based budgeting," which requires allocations and requests to be justified in detail.

### Use of stress limited

On the use of stress, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima vowed no government officials that Mr. Aquino's predecessor, Vice President, Vice President, Senate President and House Speaker.

Mr. Aquino also directed Pantasa and Education Secretary Armin Luistro to reconsider his "directive that bars teachers in classrooms in two weeks' time," Lacierda said to just here in an afternoon briefing.

At the inaugural diplomatic reception in the evening at the Palace, Mr. Aquino vowed to do away "ten years of hard work to wrestle a genuine change."

He said he looked forward to a more meaningful relationship with the international community.

Papal Nuncio Joseph Edward Adams said the diplomatic community wished Mr. Aquino and the nation success.

### Hyatt 10

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, one of the "Hyatt 10" Cabinet members who walked out on Arroyo in 2005 at the height of the "Hello Garci" crisis, said after taking his oath of office that Mr. Aquino would not suffer a similar fate.

"People seem to have forgotten why we left the government," he told the bureau. "That's because of bad governance and President Aquino is promising, not just good governance, but excellent governance, so we will support him all the way."

Benito Abad, other members of the "Hyatt 10"—Gene Pichitino, Cristina "Shoji" Soliman and Teresita "Ging" Deles—were tapped early by the old posts as finance secretary, social and welfare secretary, and presidential adviser on the peace process, respectively.

"I think it was a correct decision for us to support this administration because its commitment to good governance and enlightened for the poor as he repeatedly stated in his speech, is pretty strong," Abad said.

"With a president that states unremediate mandate, I think it's a good opportunity to begin real changes in the country."

With a report from Michael Lim Ubac and Christine V. Avanceña

# GMA loses immunity from suit, may be summoned in graft raps

From page A1

to get a closure to the cases.

He told De Lima: "You have a very searching review. Begin the process of providing true and complete justice for all. When we allow crimes to go unpunished, we give consent to their recurring over and over again." (See story on Page A3.)

De Lima said Mr. Aquino was a "possible, very possible, a probable responsible because she has really been accused of these cases of corruption so it's expected that she would be some [probable respondent]."

### Limited immunity

Whatever immunity Arroyo will continue to enjoy will apparently be limited to that enjoyed by members of Congress, she said.

Under Article 6, Section 11 of the Constitution, members of Congress "shall, in all offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment, be privileged from arrest while the Congress is in session. No member shall be questioned nor be held liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the Congress or in any committee thereof."

De Lima said the commission, which would require testimony from law department, would cover "corruption cases, as well as human rights violations cases and other excesses."

"Let's wait for the list of materials, the annotated statements, questionable transactions that will be the subject of the hearings and the testimonies and we take it from there," she said during the Aquino administration's first press conference. "And if the former president is implicated as a probable respondent, then the ban is another thing altogether."

"And, of course, due process will be followed," De Lima added.

### Divide appeal

In an interview after Mr. Aquino's inaugural address, Enrile urged the opposition to the public on his due commission do its job before speculating on whether his sins to Arroyo would affect his judgment.

Enrile insisted others asked to comment on doubts on his impartiality "should always take up personal him the accused's presumption as much as possible," he said.

Mr. Aquino's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said the President would align an executive order soon to spell out the specific scope of the investigation work.

Lacierda defended Enrile's appointment, saying "[He hasn't] has already mentioned why he decided to appoint him, that [Enrile] resigned early, resigned his job as ambassador [to] donated that President Aquino's faith in the integrity and impartiality of Enrile."

De Lima pointed out that "the integrity and independence of the commission is not hinged on the fact that it's a creation of the executive."

"What's important is that the President has said already that the very reason it has to be an independent commission—instead of assigning it to an agency or department like the DOJ or the Ombudsman—is precisely the intention to make that body independent," she added.

### Mikey optimistic

Arroyo's son, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, welcomed the appointment of Enrile to the Commission.

"With his impeccable background and given his reputed objectivity in handling issues, however controversial they are, I am highly optimistic that the Commission, under Chief Justice Enrile's helm, will come out with the most objective conclusions in the MMDA-ZTE saga, clearing all those wrongfully accused by those who used the GMA administration as their weapon to settle their political objectives," he said.

He expressed optimism that it would "come a verdict that my family would come out clean and vindicated."

"I just pray that if ever that happens, this retired will have and respect the commission's findings and put the case to rest," Juan Miguel said.

### Garcillano et al.

Aside from Arroyo, the truth commission is also investigating former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, former Agricultural Undersecretary Jocelyn Salanga and retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan for crimes ranging from corruption to violations of human rights. He said former Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said yesterday.

"They are just some of the notorious officials of the Arroyo regime who should be held accountable along with others," human rights group Bayan Secretary-general Renato Reyes Jr. said in a statement.

Lacierda should be prosecuted for election fraud, violations for the Swiss fund cases and bribery for extrajudicial killings, Reyes said. "They should be prosecuted without pretext," he said.

He added: "The victims of the Arroyo regime do not wish for the investigations to drag on indefinitely. We have learned the bitter lessons of the failure of previous government to successfully deliver justice for the Marcos human rights victims. Let us not have a repeat of that."

Reyes said there was enough evidence for the "successful prosecution" of Arroyo and her former officials for election fraud, corruption and human rights abuses. He cited the records of the Citizens Congress for Truth and Accountability which had a series of hearings to gather evidence against Arroyo after the 2005 impeachment complaint against her. With a report from Hilda Bacon

# Gloria jeered in Luneta, cheered, takes oath in Pampanga

From page A1

"Diri na! Diri na!" (Go here! Go here!), a woman screamed at an image of Arroyo shown on a giant television screen as many in the crowd were following the ceremony marking the departure of the president and the rise of another.

Thunder down again against Arroyo, the former vice president's image was replaced by Aquino's and her successor while others displayed photographs of their images at Arroyo.

"You are pitiful, Gloria. You are greedy! You still have the gumption to face the people," one woman said in Filipino, talking to the video until shouting Arroyo entering the image for the last time.

But some in the huge crowd were also loyal cheering, "Gloria! Gloria!" One man in yellow stopped to wave a flag with Arroyo's face.

Some also found chanting for her just to get the President."

Arroyo served the second longest tenure among the 14 presidents the Philippines has had—nine years, five months and 10 days.

The country's longest serving ruler, who seized martial law to extend himself in power, was the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was president for 20 years, one month and 20 days.

### Homecoming love

Then hours later, in her home province of Pampanga, the only stood presiding was love for Arroyo.

On hosting the Luneta, Arroyo returned to Malacañang and joined her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, and her brother Colonel Antonio in a hired passenger bus that took them to the City of San Fernando. The bus had a television set, supporting she may have watched the inauguration of her successor.

In Brgy. 2, Gozon Convention Center, where she attended the mass oath-taking of the province's newly elected officials, Arroyo was cheered by her provincemates.

Around 1,000 people gathered at the gym attended her with the song, "Pasalig." "The tune came from the song popularized in the 1970s by Florante but its revised lyrics, in sung numerals, spoke of gratitude for what Arroyo had done for her home province.

At 2 p.m., she took her oath of office before Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura as representative of Pampanga's second district. She will serve for three years in Congress.

### 'Best president'

Arroyo sat at a long table along with her fellow Pampangas lawmakers and beside her close friend, Pampanga Gov. Lilia Pineda. Also present were retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Delfin Bangit.

Dozens of well-wishes adorned the convention center, referring to Arroyo as "Mother Provident" and "Modern Governorness."

Some read, "We're the best presidents our country has ever had" and "Kapampangans are grateful Pi-apisa ang the best judge of your performance and greatness."

In a speech, Pineda addressed Arroyo as "president-elect."

All three of the Arroyos' children were present—party list nominee Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, Lanao del Norte Rep. Dimakuta "Dato" Arroyo and Lulu Arroyo-Bermas.

From the convention center, Arroyo and her party went to her house in Lubao for a late lunch of grilled fish and chicken, lechon, vegetables and pancit.

Members of the Presidential Security Group guarded her throughout.

### Planned bills

Chatting with reporters, Arroyo spoke of the bills she planned to file in Congress, such as amendments to the Build Operate and Transfer Law and measures to find her out red tape in government. She said her legislative agenda would also involve education, health and the environment.

"I'm looking forward to serving the people. When I was President, I worked every day. I will be helping as ex-president," she said.

Arroyo's former political advisers, Prospero Pichay, said they "expected" the backing at the Luneta, pointing out that the people at the grandstand were "not for friendly crowd."

### Same car

President Aquino and Arroyo rode together to the same presidential car to the Luneta, where the departure was meant as the outside's next leader.

At the announcement that the presidential limousine was nothing, someone in the crowd blurted out: "He should have just asked Cha-Cha to walk."

Many observed Manila Mr. Aquino, in his inaugural address, said that the sins of the past administration would not be forgotten. "Lagot ka, Gloria!" (Woe is you, Gloria!)," another spectator said, amid applause.

After getting off the car, Mr. Aquino and Arroyo walked about a feet apart from each other, to an elevated platform to review the troops.

After saluting the honor guard, Arroyo stepped down to the platform, apparently thinking she was finally leaving, the crowd began cheering and shouting Mr. Aquino's nickname: "Noynoy."

### Ignores Noy's hand

Many thought the Lubao sign with which Arroyo made unknown waved goodbye. But Arroyo was seemingly unfazed and kept on smiling, waving her right hand in the crowd while mopping the line.

"She just looks like a kid who's leaving school," said one man among the crowd.

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"She just looks like a kid who's leaving school," said one man among the crowd.

Then she got back in the elevated platform, Mr. Aquino mentioned with his hands as if to guide her back to her position but she didn't take his hand.

Arroyo then walked back to the podium—while smiling with her eyelids narrowing—and then stepped down and finally walked toward her new vehicle.

Again, Mr. Aquino gestured with his hands as if to invite her to her car, but she went her own way.

### The moment

Sensing that the moment had finally arrived, the crowd again cheered, clapped, waved goodbye, and shouted "Noynoy" to a rising crescendo until Arroyo boarded her vehicle and left. By then, others were booing.

"They should just let her be because she's already leaving. They shouldn't boo her," said a woman who led a delegation of Gawad Kampanya volunteers from Bulacan.

Arroyo stayed on the ceremonial ground for less than 10 minutes. The mood at the park changed to full jubilance after she left. With reports from Gerry Simeon and Inquirer Research

**9:24 a.m.** CAMERA READY Less than three hours to her oathtaking as the country's 15th President, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo still goes over finishing touches from a makeup artist before facing the media and the world.

**9:36 a.m.** CLOSE TO HOME Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, the President-elect appears to have an hearty and smiles encounter with "Liberal" fighting pose with defeated Liberal Party running mate Mar Roxas.

**10:28 a.m.** THAT'S DEMOCRACY Aquino arrives at the Palace. A handshake with outgoing President Macapagal-Arroyo sets off the peaceful transfer of power, a feat of democracy last achieved by Filipinos 12 years ago.

**10:29 a.m.** EASY RIDERS The incoming and the former tenants of Malacañang board car "No. 1" for the short ceremonial ride to the Quirino Park that had gotten the nation buzzing. What could they possibly talk about while on the road?

# FIRST DAY OF THE AQUINO PRESIDENCY

**4:57 p.m.** RED CARPET READY Now the country's head of state, President Noy strides into the Palace reception hall like home to the presidential office in more and great foreign guests and the diplomatic corps for the rite d'passage.

**10:41 a.m.** HAIL TO THE CHIEF The President-elect stands by Ms. Arroyo moments before she swears the oath of office as the Quirino Grandstand, her 'field of commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

**3:49 p.m.** TWO PRESIDENTS President Cory and Noy are probably the only mothers and sons who became heads of state after India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv, who succeeded her.

**10:56 a.m.** TOO DARN HOT Al least 300 people fainted from the sweltering heat and humidity as the inauguration ceremony dragged on for more than two hours.

THREE PRESIDENTS President Aquino is congratulated by former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada shortly after taking his oath.

**11:26 a.m.** BEST BUDDY Josh, Kris Aquino's eldest son, goes right up Uncle Dingoy from several rows back to kiss him after he took his oath of office and just before he delivered his inaugural address, surprising onlookers.

# No anthem glitch for Charice; VIPs stand for folksy Noel

From page A1

The 2010 Inauguration ceremony at Quirino Grandstand also brought back to the national stage a folk singer active since the revived pop era known for their patriotic songs: a talented, homegrown, multitalented rap in five choral groups; and other first-time entertainers who gave Mr. Aquino's oath-taking to sound tracks of variety and new hope.

Decidedly, international singing star Charice Pempengco decided belting out "Lupang Hinirang" and sang the 1898 opus in its original (or statesanctioned) tempo.

In an earlier TV interview, Charice admitted being nervous about singing the anthem's opening lyrics reminded her of the time she faltered with the hymn in opener of the blockbuster flights of boxing champ Manny Pacquiao.

Accompanied yesterday by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under Maestro Gerard Salonga conducting, Charice took the line this time, rendering "Lupang Hinirang" in its simple, marching tempo and delivering the final notes with elegance, not histrionics.

The Aquinos themselves hand-picked Charice to sing the National Anthem at the June 30 inaugural. Her mom Raquel said they were in the United States when she got the call from the President's celebrity aide Kris.

### Lessons learned

Raquel said her daughter stuck to the anthem's traditional version because "we've learned our lesson from past controversies." She was referring to the pop-like manipulations by other singers, like Jed Isidro Manila Sinfonia and rock star Jessa Zaragoza, which drew down curtains from the National Historical Institute.

Carolyn—she had one name recently during filmmaker Ishmael Bernal's pet project "I Love You Carolyn"—said her daughter was "very nervous" before the performance, but "she's been singing the anthem since she was 5 years old."

Before she sang, Charice was introduced by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Speaker Prospero Nograles and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. were also present.

Emphasizing the nonsectarian influence of the Church, Manila Archbishop Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal sat on the front row on the stage.

Chief Justice Renato Corona, whom Mr. Aquino has yet to oversight, also sat on the front row, one chair away from Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte.

### Earlier than scheduled

The program proper began when Mr. Aquino and his predecessor arrived there. Mrs. Aquino arrived at 9:53 a.m.

It was only then that Binay arrived in his green-colored electric-powered Kuya, in an apparent breach of protocol. But organizers later said he arrived at the stadium's VIP gate ahead of the two Presidents-to-be only.

Arroyo arrived first at 9:44 a.m. minutes.

Fr. Catalino Arevalo, spiritual adviser of the Aquino family, held the Bible on which Mr. Aquino raised his left hand before he was sworn in.

When Mr. Aquino began his speech and greeted the dignitaries present, he mentioned only the "justices of the Supreme Court."

Corona was seen hearing himself and looking straight in, to the crowd.

Former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who administered the oath of office to Mr. Aquino, was also not mentioned.

Mr. Aquino's speech was 22 minutes long.

### Inaugural songs

Pop stars Gary Alsaad and girlfriend Regine Velasquez did a duet, with La Salle Green Hills' all-boys group Kundiman on backup vocals. They sang a singles-flavored Aquino campaign ditty.

Velasquez followed it up with the midcentenary "Hindi Ko Kayang Tumingin Sa Iba" (I cannot look at anyone else), which had been aired on TV as a music video featuring an all-star cast.

The Aquinos imagined song "Bagong Pilipinas," a collaborative work between Alsaad and Kabataan Partylist Representative Raymond Palatino, including Gary Valenciano, Christian Bautista, Jed Madela and Gloc-9, in pop appeal, however, did not immediately connect with the crowd.

The nonsectarian 800-member Iglesia ni Cristo choir sang "Sabihin Mo," while the globe-trotting Philippine Madrigal Singers sang its version of the classic political anthem "Bayan Ko."

Like most of the performances, Velasquez beamed over, as her 23 years in show biz, it was her first time to unwind and sing at a presidential inauguration.

Apart from being excited, I also feel proud because three of the songs in the finale were written by Jonathan Cayo," said the power singer hailed as Asia's funniest, who came in an old velvet saya by Pedo Tesoro.

### Show of unity

"We are here to show that Filipinos are united," Alsaad said.

"We are here to celebrate with our new President. We don't have just one color here. We all the colors of the rainbow. Not just one political or network affiliation. We are all here for our country," Alsaad said.

"During our rehearsals last night, the crew sang (composed by Calalayan) and Alsaad (unscripted) so beautiful and heartfelt. The people who were watching the rehearsals felt the song's message," Balmaceda said.

"I congratulate Jon (another jueteng-related anti-Arroyo) Avila for the song 'Ako Ang Simula.' Sana, indeed, crossed network lines to celebrate this new President.

Nino, who wore a green Vhong Navarro saya, pointed out: "Music from rival shows like ABS-CBN's 'Rated' and GMA-7's 'Party Pilipinas' performed together."

"It's a good start," said Bautista, who donned a Francis Libiran barong. "This administration can bring people from different networks together."

### All sorts of 'K'

ABS-CBN's Bautista, who wore a barong by Jojo Santos, said: "It's a new opportunity for us happy that I got to work with Gary Valenciano, Christian Bautista, Kuh Ledesma and Kundiman. Lots of the other guests I will also sing with Jay-R and Rita who are from GMA."

Valenciano quipped: "There are all sorts of K's here today: Kapamilya, Kapuso, Kapatid, Kundiman, Kalbaryo and Kundiman. Others besides Kundiman included Rita and Alsaad's."

According to Cayabyab, the inaugural choir also included the Pasyon Choir, Coro de Sta. Cecilia, Silyestre and Cu Chonde.

Among the stars spotted in the VIP row were Shamcey Supsup and daughter BC Gutierrez and Frankie Pangilinan, the comedienne Palencia and newsbreaks Marian Rivera and Dingdong Dantes.

Bharan came in a "recycled" Pastry Sarmenta gown. "She previously wore it at the Palm Springs film festival in France two years ago. He didn't have time to make a new gown . . . So [she embellished the dress with a yellow ribbon," Sarmenta said.

"We're also Frankie's Choice," wore "recycled, too, wears in school programs," Cuneta added. BC came in a vintage-style gown by Jun Escario.

### Awe-inspiring

Though she's the daughter of a politician, the late Pasay City Mayor Nilda Cuneta, Shamcey said it was her first time to attend a presidential inauguration.

"It was awe-inspiring," the Manila Bay councilor said during her view from the gallery. "I had my doubts Sunday-till Mid that when she passes up, she will be proud that she witnessed this day right where it was happening."

"I am especially proud to be Filipino at this time. The air is filled with new hope and aspirations. Sana, our country deserves much, much better than what it has received."

"I'm so emotional, I couldn't help shedding some tears, especially during the song 'Hanggang Sa Wag Ika," Shamcey said. "I know President-elect Noy is not the only solution, but all of us. We are not alone on this."

For Dancel, Mr. Aquino's address, when "it woke up and [the] world hand in hand with the administration."

AWE-INSPIRING: Singing star Charice Pempengco pulls off an elegant (and this time, unembellished) performance of the National Anthem in opposite terrain to the Starman handpicked to the Aquinos to sing the Philippine anthem. She flew in from the States just for the occasion. (MACGAMBOA)

# 'A celebration of democracy' observes Jose Ramos Horta

From page A1

Papa Lepe, a cousin of Mr. Aquino's.

"(But) while we feel happy today, we're also very concerned about the big problems that he is going to face," Lapu said. "I hope nobody forgets that we all have to help him in the next six years."

### The real change

The crowd began to gather as early as Tuesday night despite the heavy rains. By yesterday morning the skies had cleared up and people had arrived in droves, some from as far as Valenzuela City.

"This could be the real change that the Philippines has been waiting for," said Miss Palmer Ms Anna Change "who rescued the program along with artist Jim Paredes.

The 20 inauguration organizing members of the Chinese-Filipino community performed a line dance with Fr. relentful "Noy" and threw "thumbs" up. On while, the 45th kept arriving.

Actress Sharon Cuneta arrived together with her daughter BC and husband Jiro Manio de Pangilinan.

"I'm excited and very happy for our country," said Cuneta, who was dressed in a black gown with a "Noy" pin on her chest. Pangilinan's "It's a very inspiring day," added BC.

The other celebrity couples in attendance included incoming Sen. Ralph Recto and Bernadine Gov. Vilma Santos (in blue gown) and Senator Lito Lapid (green) and incoming Leyte Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (in pink).

The new President's sisters—Pinky Cojuangco, Philip Abellada, Viel Dee and Ballsy Yap—along with his girlfriend, Shoreline Dominguez, Kris Aquino, Ballsy Yap—along with his girlfriend, Shoreline Dominguez, Kris Aquino, Ballsy Yap—were guests in various shades of yellow.

"It seems that all kinds of sorts can be seen here today," Paredes said in a parade of women in different colors began arriving.

### Political stars

Other show biz personalities present were Charlie Pempengco, Gigi Ahmad, Regine Velasquez, Dingdong Dantes, Cesar Montano and Gardner Cruz.

But it was not just show biz stars who were in attendance as also political bears known led by former President Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

Estrada have sent a statement wishing the new administration "the best of luck" and calling on the people to come together and pray for its success as P Noy personally reminds himself to do the tasks of eliminating corruption and ending poverty."

"After the presidency of his mother, P Noy's feelings with it rule the government. He now carries the burden of delivering the fruits of the democracy that his father fought for and that his mother reestablished," Estrada said.

Vice President Noli de Castro, Deputy President Joint Police Panelo, Speaker Prospero Nograles and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. were also present.

Emphasizing the nonsectarian influence of the Church, Manila Archbishop Cardinals Gaudencio Rosales and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal sat on the front row on the stage.

Chief Justice Renato Corona, whom Mr. Aquino has yet to oversight, also sat on the front row, one chair away from Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte.

### Earlier than scheduled

The program proper began when Mr. Aquino and his predecessor arrived there. Mrs. Aquino at 9:53 a.m.

It was only then that Binay arrived in his green-colored electric-powered Kuya, in an apparent breach of protocol. But organizers later said he arrived at the stadium's VIP gate ahead of the two Presidents-to-be only.

Arroyo arrived first at 9:44 a.m. minutes.

Fr. Catalino Arevalo, spiritual adviser of the Aquino family, held the Bible on which Mr. Aquino raised his left hand before he was sworn in.

When Mr. Aquino began his speech and greeted the dignitaries present, he mentioned only the "justices of the Supreme Court."

Corona was seen hearing himself and looking straight in, to the crowd.

Former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who administered the oath of office to Mr. Aquino, was also not mentioned.

Mr. Aquino's speech was 22 minutes long.

### Inaugural songs

Pop stars Gary Alsaad and girlfriend Regine Velasquez did a duet, with La Salle Green Hills' all-boys group Kundiman on backup vocals. They sang a singles-flavored Aquino campaign ditty.

Velasquez followed it up with the midcentenary "Hindi Ko Kayang Tumingin Sa Iba" (I cannot look at anyone else), which had been aired on TV as a music video featuring an all-star cast.

The Aquinos imagined song "Bagong Pilipinas," a collaborative work between Alsaad and Kabataan Partylist Representative Raymond Palatino, including Gary Valenciano, Christian Bautista, Jed Madela and Gloc-9, in pop appeal, however, did not immediately connect with the crowd.

The nonsectarian 800-member Iglesia ni Cristo choir sang "Sabihin Mo," while the globe-trotting Philippine Madrigal Singers sang its version of the classic political anthem "Bayan Ko."

Like most of the performances, Velasquez beamed over, as her 23 years in show biz, it was her first time to unwind and sing at a presidential inauguration.

Apart from being excited, I also feel proud because three of the songs in the finale were written by Jonathan Cayo," said the power singer hailed as Asia's funniest, who came in an old velvet saya by Pedo Tesoro.

### Show of unity

"We are here to show that Filipinos are united," Alsaad said.

"We are here to celebrate with our new President. We don't have just one color here. We all the colors of the rainbow. Not just one political or network affiliation. We are all here for our country," Alsaad said.

"During our rehearsals last night, the crew sang (composed by Calalayan) and Alsaad (unscripted) so beautiful and heartfelt. The people who were watching the rehearsals felt the song's message," Balmaceda said.

"I congratulate Jon (another jueteng-related anti-Arroyo) Avila for the song 'Ako Ang Simula.' Sana, indeed, crossed network lines to celebrate this new President.

Nino, who wore a green Vhong Navarro saya, pointed out: "Music from rival shows like ABS-CBN's 'Rated' and GMA-7's 'Party Pilipinas' performed together."

"It's a good start," said Bautista, who donned a Francis Libiran barong. "This administration can bring people from different networks together."

### All sorts of 'K'

ABS-CBN's Bautista, who wore a barong by Jojo Santos, said: "It's a new opportunity for us happy that I got to work with Gary Valenciano, Christian Bautista, Kuh Ledesma and Kundiman. Lots of the other guests I will also sing with Jay-R and Rita who are from GMA."

Valenciano quipped: "There are all sorts of K's here today: Kapamilya, Kapuso, Kapatid, Kundiman, Kalbaryo and Kundiman. Others besides Kundiman included Rita and Alsaad's."

According to Cayabyab, the inaugural choir also included the Pasyon Choir, Coro de Sta. Cecilia, Silyestre and Cu Chonde.

Among the stars spotted in the VIP row were Shamcey Cuneta and daughter BC Gutierrez and Frankie Pangilinan, the comedienne Palencia and newsbreaks Marian Rivera and Dingdong Dantes.

Bharan came in a "recycled" Pastry Sarmenta gown. "She previously wore it at the Palm Springs film festival in France two years ago. He didn't have time to make a new gown . . . So [she embellished the dress with a yellow ribbon," Sarmenta said.

"We're also Frankie's Choice," wore "recycled, too, wears in school programs," Cuneta added. BC came in a vintage-style gown by Jun Escario.

### Awe-inspiring

Though she's the daughter of a politician, the late Pasay City Mayor Nilda Cuneta, Shamcey said it was her first time to attend a presidential inauguration.

"It was awe-inspiring," the Manila Bay councilor said during her view from the gallery. "I had my doubts Sunday-till Mid that when she passes up, she will be proud that she witnessed this day right where it was happening."

"I am especially proud to be Filipino at this time. The air is filled with new hope and aspirations. Sana, our country deserves much, much better than what it has received."

"I'm so emotional, I couldn't help shedding some tears, especially during the song 'Hanggang Sa Wag Ika," Shamcey said. "I know President-elect Noy is not the only solution, but all of us. We are not alone on this."

For Dancel, Mr. Aquino's address, when "it woke up and [the] world hand in hand with the administration."

### Improving weather

The heavens seem to agree with the new President, with sweltering conditions, particularly in Metro Manila, seen to improve in the first few days of his term.

Pagasa chief weather forecaster Robert Jaron said the low-pressure area that had lately been bringing rains to Luzon was moving away from the country.

"We expect the clear-up because the low-pressure area is moving away," Jaron said, adding that the weather system would no longer embed itself into the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), then hover by the clusters of rain.

"So for Metro Manila, we will have good weather in the next several days," Jaron said.

But he noted that the ITCZ was affecting Mindanao, bringing rains to that area.

Pagasa had earlier advised parade and the general public to bring umbrellas to Mr. Aquino's inauguration.

### Crowd estimates

Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magcalig director of the Manila Police District (MPD), maintained that the crowd at Quirino Grandstand peaked at 600,000 during Mr. Aquino's oath-taking at noon.

Magcalig told the Inquirer that droves of people arrived as early as 5 a.m., reaching 600,000 by 10 a.m.

He said the event was generally orderly but two pickpocketing incidents and suspected motorcycle theft.

Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Jesus Verzosa, commander of the PNP Task Force Pamalakaya, said some 3,000 policemen were tasked to ensure the inauguration was close to 800,000 people were in attendance.

"We made the calculations based on open-space density estimates," Verzosa said in a statement. "We also used as a reference the figures from Dimensions. Assessors I. Andrada, Beverly P. Natividad, Alexis Papa and Marian Ramos

Each carrying their own homebase chairs, interactive fans, cameras, Blue Guitarra and Fe Mahilangan left their village in Commonwealth Heights, Fairview, Quezon City at 3:30 a.m. to get their space on the grounds.

"We came as we knew many people will be coming," Mahilangan said, donning herself and making herself comfortable in her chair.

"We're excited because we know that with (the new President), there will be no corruption," Guitarra said.

Despite the rain warnings, mixed-up late Angel and Jhon Lyn Manalang brought their babies, both less than a year old, to Luneta.

"We are both breast-feeding, so says Jhon will be holding for us if we leave them at home," said Angel, mother of 11-month-old Jhon.

"I voted for both Noynoy and Binay, so I want to see them in person when they take their oaths," Jhon Lyn said.

Sherilyn had 5-month-old Althea in tow.

The mothers brought with them for their babies, umbrellas and jerseys here in their bags.

They had no qualms leaving their babies with their fathers, Jhon Lyn assuring each other for midterm's sake.

Other children, albeit older, also braved the early morning drizzles for the chance to see the new President.

Beth Pascua, 9-year-old third grader from Ascension Elementary School in San Mateo, Rizal, acquired his father Raymond into taking him to the Luneta.

Father and son left San Mateo at 5:30 a.m. and arrived at the grounds two hours later.

"I want to see Noynoy in person," Beth said.

"And then he will make that we eat at Jollibee afterwards," his father added.

Batanes troops of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines also came, their unit Anma indicating that they came from as far as Batan from the north and Jolo city from the south.

Across the NATION

# Gov signs open-pit mining ban, reveals pressure from Danding

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE GOVERNOR OF South Cotabato has signed a ban on open-pit mining in the province, saying she defied her party boss, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, by doing so.

Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes signed the province's new environmental code banning open-pit mining on Monday, or two days before her term ended.

Fuentes refused to succumb to pressure not to sign the code. Among those who had requested her not to sign the ban was Cojuangco, according to Fuentes, who is a member of the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC) founded by Cojuangco.

Fuentes said instead of bowing to Cojuangco's request, she simply resigned from the NPC.

Cojuangco's Sta. Miguel Corp. (SMC) plans to operate an open-pit gold mine in Brgy. Tampakan town and SMC's coal mining project in Lake Sebu.

Cojuangco had offered a compromise deal with Fuentes to block the code. It argued that the Tampakan copper-gold project was "world class with at an estimated content of 15.5 million tons of copper and 15.8 million ounces of gold."

Fuentes also vetoed support for the project by promising to invest over $5 billion, employ up to 9,000 people during construction and up to 2,000 people during operations.

Xtrata had expected to start actual mining in 2018.

According to Fuentes, she made the decision to sign the new code "after making a thorough examination of my conscience."

Fuentes said pressure from both pro- and anti-mining groups did not influence her decision, she said, her decision was based on what she thought was right.

Fuentes said while she had supported the Mining Act as representative of South Cotabato in the past, the law's implementation did not serve its purpose and only benefited big investors.

Fuentes said national government agencies, particularly the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), failed to convince her that there were sufficient safety nets in realizing the impact of open-pit mining in her province.

She said she also wasn't convinced that tribal communities who relocate for mining sites to located, would benefit from the project.

"I have done my part," said Fuentes.

John Arnaldo, corporate communications manager of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) in a statement company's unit's response to the governor's decision, said SMI will continue to adhere to the provisions of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, which does not ban open-pit or any other mining method.

But Fuentes, herself a lawyer, said the passage of the environment code is part of the exercise of autonomy by local governments units. —Agustin T. Pinsoy, Inquirer Mindanao

# Church leader backs division of Quezon into 2 provinces

LUCENA CITY—A TOP CHURCH leader in Quezon endorsed his support for the division of the province into two—Quezon del Sur and Quezon del Norte.

Lucena Bishop Emilio Marquez, in a homily at the St. Ferdinand Cathedral here on Wednesday, said the division of the province into two would help in progress and development.

Marquez delivered his homily before an audience that included provincial officials and local line agency supervisors, and a host of other concerned individuals.

After Mass, the governor, his technical fellow, Rep. Danilo Suarez (third district) and other officials took their seats before Court of Appeals Justice Stephen Cruz to close hold at the Quezon Convention Center.

In a 20-minute speech, Governor Suarez called on all elected officials of the province to put aside political affiliations and deliver sure and honest public service.

The province is confronting a P788 million debt incurred by the past administration, according to Suarez.

Last week, Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III (fourth district) declared his intention to refile the bill dividing Quezon into Tañada Complex.

Tañada belongs to the ruling Liberal Party of President-elect Benigno Aquino III.

Representative Suarez, who claimed responsibility for a controversial P5-million dinner with former President Macapagal Arroyo in New York, said he will again support the proposal to divide the province.

The lawmaker said even if his son Jayjay is now the provincial chief executive, their position on the issue remained the same.

"We still see things our same. Our position will always be the same. We still believe that the province can be efficiently managed if it will be divided into two separate political units," the congressman said.

However, he maintained that at the end of the day, it is for the people of Quezon to decide in a plebiscite whether they want to separate the provinces or not.

Over the phone, now Rep. Irvin Alcala said he will list study the bill before he decides on any official position.—Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

# *Market on railway adds to delay in train arrival*

SOGOD CITY—AFTER SUFFERING for two days on the 377-kilometer railway line from Tondaw to Naga City, new trains of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) finally reached their destination on Tuesday, just in time for a deadline to do it by the end of President Macapagal Arroyo's term.

It was the first PNR visit since it ceased since it closed its Bicol-Manila route in November 2008 after frayed cables "fanning" damaged many portions of the route.

Manuel Redel, PNR general manager, said there were unconfirmed reports left Tondaw at 9 a.m. on Sunday but the run was delayed by obstructions along the railway.

"That's why it took us two days to reach Naga City," he said.

Some of the obstructions were houses built by squatters along railroad tracks.

Andal said PNR workers demolished the structures, which included a semi-market built in the middle of the railroad track.

At least 1,000 workers were tapped for the demolition job.

Andal said the newly demolished clusters of structures from Los Baños in Laguna to the towns of Bigaháan and Gumaca in Quezon.

Andal said the Philippine government bought at least 20 new trains, called diesel multiple units (DMUs), from South Korea. These were delivered recently.

The Philippines borrowed money from the Export-Import Bank of Korea for the DMUs, according to Andal, who said the revival of the train service was one of the legacies of the former President.

The PNR commuter service is the only one of its kind outside Metro Manila, said Andal.

Adviser D. Radovan Golpe, Andal's executive assistant, said each coach has a capacity of 600-700 passengers and would operate alongside old diesel-hul locomotives that the PNR maintains.

Golpe said PNR awaits the arrival of 18 sleeper coaches from Japan, which is expected in August. These coaches would be devoted to the Bicol-Manila route in time for the Philippine Festival in September.

Expedidus Regalio, engineer and division manager of PNR's rolling stock, said the DMU has a 1,500-horsepower engine on each end of the train and two cars with a top speed of 80 kilometer per hour.

Regalio said the DMU can transit 300 liters of diesel for the 377-km inaugural trip from Tondaw to Naga City.

Constancio Teñoloan, a transport department official in Bicol, said commuters pay less for a train ride.

Teñoloan said more people are taking the train as reflected in the increase of PNR revenues—1,312 percent from September 2009 to May 2010.

—Jason Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

NEW TRAINS. Six (the diesel multiple unit, were bought for $14 million each from South Korea and would make their regular Bicol-Manila run by September, according to Philippine National Railways officials.

# 500 squatter homes demolished at Bataan park

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the police have demolished at least 500 illegally built houses inside a 700-hectare protected park in Bataan since Monday, nearly clearing it of squatters supposedly left by a retired Army general and a former provincial security aide.

Ricardo Calderon, regional executive director of the DENR in Central Luzon, said another 79 structures are due for demolition in the Roosevelt Protected Landscape (RPL).

The houses of a British national and an American were among those knocked down during the demolition, Calderon said.

He said the DENR, police and local governments of Dinalupihan and Orani provincial government of Bataan proceeded with the clearing following the arrest of Victor Batuito, a former member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), and four others on June 9.

A complaint for violation of the National Integrated Protected Area System (Nipas) Law of 1992, or Republic Act No. 7586, was filed against them by the DENR in March this year.

They posted bail. Retired Sgt. Fernan Mangaring, a respondent, was not among those arrested.

Batuito could not be reached for comment. Authorities received reports of his subordinates in Olongapo City.

Reports said Batuito remained in the park although the army had stopped maintaining a patrol base there.

Ricky Hernandez, community environment and natural resources officer (Cenro) of Baliuag City said Batuito collected lease ranging from P50 to P100 a day from the squatters who he enticed through a subdivision plan that was not authorized by the DENR.

—Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

# Cory loyalist 'Bitay' Lacson won't accept Cabinet post

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—BEVERLY CABILES' position have been offered to former Negros Rep. Ignacio Bitay Lacson Jr., according to Valley Aquino Cruz, sister of President-elect Benigno Aquino III.

"I think he (Lacson) signified that he was ready to help and was

> This might sound a bit problematic but I have great difficulty living in Manila...'

coming to help. But I don't know if he is ready to be in the Cabinet. But of course, any help will really be so welcome especially from Governor Bitay. He helped my mother so much, too," Cruz said on Thursday. Cruz was in Negros Occidental with her sister Pinky Aquino-Abellana.

She said it was not just one but several positions offered to Lacson through emissaries, but it seemed like he wanted to help in some other ways, said Cruz who would not say what Cabinet posts were offered to the former governor.

Lacson, who was in Manila presiding over a meeting of the Philippine Interlocal Disposition Association (Pria) when the issues were in Negros on Thursday, expressed appreciation for being considered for a Cabinet position.

"I am thankful to the Aquino family for even considering me for a position in President Noynoy's administration. It's a great honor," said Lacson who is Pria president and chair.

When pressed if he would accept a Cabinet post, Lacson did not release anything.

"This might sound a bit problematic but I have great difficulty living in Manila. If I accept the post and I don't give it full time, like being in Manila all the time, it will be unfair to the administration," he said.

However, Lacson said he was prepared to help in whatever way he can.

Cruz said she knows that most of the nominees for the position of head of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) were from Negros but their other two positions have been offered other governmental posts.

However, she would not say who these people were and whom her brother would appoint.

# Retired prosecutor found dead in Cebu home

By Dionnen Magallanan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A RETIRED PROSecutor has been found dead past 11 a.m. Sunday inside his house in Camella Homes in Lawaan, Talisay City.

Supt. Henry Biñas, chief of the Talisay City Police Office, said Senior Regional State Prosecutor Hermenio Mozonayan, 72, suffered a stab wound in the neck and was in underwear and underwear in bed when found by relative Rizl Stephen Mozonayan.

Mozonayan, a nephew of Mozonayan's late wife, had been asked by the slain judge's daughter, Nika, who is in Dubai, and son, Ormoc-based Reggie, to check on their father as they could not contact him since Friday last week.

Mozonayan has been living alone because his three children, Nika, Carla and Reggie worked outside Cebu.

Biñas said Mozonayan's body was in a state of decomposition when he was found, leading police to believe that Mozonayan was killed more than 24 hours before he was found.

He said police did not find the weapon used to stab the judge, adding that there were no sign of forced entry.

Biñas said police were pursuing personal grudge as a possible motive in the killing. However, he refused to elaborate.

Biñas said Mozonayan's being killed because of his work as prosecutor was a remote possibility because he retired in 2004.

Biñas said robbery was also not likely the motive because Mozonayan's valuables and money were intact.

He said they found clothes of Mozonayan, a retiree, was considered as a suspect.

Biñas said police had invited the minor for questioning but he was released because there was no basis to detain him.

The minor had claimed that he had stopped drinking for Mozonayan's door Mop.

Aside from the minor, Biñas said police have other suspects, whom he refused to name.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Alice Jan Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Florante G. Solmerano

# Modern art goes to Camarines Norte

By Dyan Bandayrel Ruiz
Intern, Camarines Norte

TOWERING BAMBOO installation pieces on a grey sand beach, video art projected on school hallways and rooms, including internationally acclaimed video artist Takahiko Iimura, and sculptures in the school yard ready to be set lit.

These were the modern media artworks made accessible to the locals and visitors in the capital town of Daet in Camarines Norte for the 3rd Bagnabon Beach International Video Arts Festival (BBIAF), which ran from May 30 to June 6.

"Most of the time we venerate art, it's very sculptural and elitist ... art should be accessible," Prof. Corazon Abiera, former director of the National Museum who came on board recently as BBIAF curator, said in an interview.

The festival not only displayed the works in public spaces throughout Daet, but community members from seven barangays were also paired with the six international and one Filipino installation artists to use local skills and materials to construct the creative artworks on Bagnabon Beach.

## Community works

This is how the art is accessible, said Abiera. "Communities are working with you. It's in a public space. They see the entire procedure of art making."

Atilio Arroyo, son of Filipina artist Jeruzalino Arroyo, said in a press conference, "It's not about high and low; it's about art for all ... You should be given a chance to appreciate art."

Arroyo' public art piece, "Sandpaj," consists of two pod-like chairs and a modular table made of concrete and stone. Students of the school it is placed in can bask in both the aesthetics and function of the organic-formed sculpture.

The hand craftsmen and carpenters employed skills they are daily to build houses, fishnets and fish traps to build the installation pieces for the BBIAF. "Now they they realize they can use those skills to materialize something else, it opens doors," Abiera said.

"My experience was to go in and visit the communities in the village, and to come back from the village with this material, to build the art here with them, and then they asked me, [if they can] take some pieces with them back to their village ... It's a good beginning," said filmmaker Ethelbert Dean Pimentel.

"They will learn to use their village and maybe they can build by themselves," he said.

Herbalist designed the work "In Divine Proportions," which has a series of platforms interlaced with structures of geometric forms, each as stars, joined at the corners by coconuts.

## Using imagination

Filipino artists from Luzon said that from the work of the community came the realization of the installation piece produced. "They were able to use their imagination" in the process, she said.

Lucero's coal-shaped piece titled "Bath House" incorporated the municipal. It was placed in. Buyong steel bamboo shafts filled with water and protruding from the sand represented high tide, and folded bamboo leaves, low tide.

Shanti Pant from Norway and the United Kingdom, who designed "Sensual Sensitive," which had elements that moved in the wind, planned to ask some of the carpenters he worked with to create more pieces for him, which they will be accredited for.

## Interactive effort

Mike Ching from Cainta made a work with the community that built her installation piece, "Lighthouse," and was apart in use they would run participate in the press conference. "My community made is special for me. All of the good things I am grateful for. I owe to them."

American Mathew Shutt' work, "Free Space," began with only an initial concept and was adapted based on his interactions with community members. His incorporated elements like lines made by hands on or trash into his final piece.

"It's about relating the every day seeing what's there and thinking if actually has more value than we think it does ... to show them the value of who they are and what they have is a huge thing," Shutt said.

In his work, lines are attached atop tall bamboo poles, which local residents climbed. He described the significance of "effortless" to get to something that you were away at any moment," which symbolizes what he hopes will happen after.

"The question is all this is, when you leave, what is left?" he said.

Festival organizers described the meeting spirit of the BBIAF as "an art created for human and communal, "a [re-]encounter" from people.

Janet Illiz, vice president for administration of Our Lady of Lourdes College (OLLC) in Daet, who was the festival, realized that the event was a call order in the impoverished, rural community and that this development is a long-term process.

Previous festivals were in 2003 and 2006, with Dr. Joaquin Salvacion as founder and executive director.

## Trash problem

One artist, Group, criticized a lack of focus on few arts beyond the natural materials used for the installations during the press conference. "You have a very big problem about putting trash where it doesn't belong, so that is the first problem you declare to solve."

Chang Ho Chik from Hong Kong designed a Mickey Mouse-shaped installation piece that became a trash receptacle, which is a commentary on Western culture and that the "influence of the outside that brings a lot of trash, a lot of garbage."

Abiera assured that the festival limited "new ends the business ending and the natural environment," when describing the five new aspect of the BBIAF. He spoke about the processes where community participation was created and where the artistic were displayed.

The 17 videos were shown continuously in the festival on walls and other surfaces throughout Daet, but were later moved inside the OLLC building because of rain, and something else was Edward Bangilman.

## Short films

One of the featured works that the locals had an opportunity to experience was that of Iimuraalso acclaimed Japanese experimental film and video artist, Takahiko Iimura, a pioneer in the field since the 1970s, who has had many solo exhibits in places, such as the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

His four short films shown are contemplations on a concept called "Ma," a Japanese word for space in between, and crossroads of space/time. "The emphasis is not the object, but something in between," Iimura said in an interview.

In his works, visually "Ma" translates into interplays between positive and negative space, which is "activated" and explained in realtime. Iimura's through black and white face drawings acting like a visual palimpsest or the video progresses. Remnants of a line are seen briefly before fading out as another line appears.

Through audio, silence, a substantial form of communication is experienced. Iimura's performance when there is no song or white noise heard by the audiences in one video.

In "The Sliding of <Ma> in Hyun-Ji," three silent Japanese video of the first video are switched with consecutive frames of second video, showing the gradual change of images arranged "Ma" silently in an event until one spaces of white pebbles.

STUART Frost's "Nature's Rotation"

# Cavite women create 'EcoBags' from poll campaign tarps

By Marisse Cinco
Correspondent, Cavite

DISPOSING OF TONS OF CAMPAIGN MATERials, mostly nonbiodegradable tarpaulin, was a nightmare after the May 10 polls in Carmona town in Cavite, which has long seriously taken efforts in proper waste management.

"They were just so many and we did not know what to do with them," said Carol Ortiz, solid waste management officer of the Municipal Environmental Office (Meno).

It was in this light that Meno came up with an idea to recycle a truckload of tarpaulin into school bags, in time for the June opening of classes.

The "EcoBags"—backpacks, envelope-type bags and pouches—were created out of tarpaulins. The project was an offshoot of the municipal government's waste management program that started in 2008.

## Sturdy

"These are waterproof, not easily torn and are cheaper because the materials were recycled," said Eusebio Lebanistas, who designed the EcoBags. Lebanistas used to make decorative materials in a mall before he joined the municipal livelihood program.

The EcoBag school bag, the regular size of a backpack, is sold for P80 and can carry about five grade school textbooks. The envelope-size bag is sold for P50.

The gaudy print on the tarpaulin makes vibrant designs for the bags. Customized designs for bulk orders are also accepted.

Schoolchildren may swap their old bags for the EcoBags. "By next school year, we are targeting to make enough for all schoolchildren and the bags could be given for free together with the distribution of free school supplies (by the local government)," Ortiz said.

CARMONA's environment officer aims to distribute the "EcoBags" to schoolchildren as part of its information and education drive on waste management.

## Waste management

For over a decade, Carmona has maintained its own waste processing facility in Barangay Lantic. In November 2009, it adopted an ordinance prohibiting the use of plastic bags.

The library and a women's group, Samahang Kababaihang Kaliwalinan ng Carmona Inc. (SMKC), launched a livelihood program aimed at recycling bags from used units of TVs.

Under Republic Act No. 9003 of 2000, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, every municipality is required to reduce its solid wastes by 50 percent "through an education campaign in 14 villages about waste management, Ortiz said.

Before Carmona began its waste management program, she said, the town was easily inundated by flood during heavy rains.

"We know plastic materials clog canals and cause floods. But during (Typhoon) 'Ondoy' (in 2009), we were thankful we were spared by the deluge," Ortiz said.

## Livelihood opportunity

While getting rid of the campaign tarpaulins, the Meno says have the growing tarpaulin printing businesses could potentially contribute to the garbage problem if not addressed right away.

Aside from addressing the environmental concerns, the EcoBag program aims to provide livelihood to residents. To date, it employs 21 women sewers, mostly former workers to guarantee factories who lose their jobs for months, the age requirements.

Each worker is paid on a per-piece basis, getting an average of P150 a week.

"The advantage is you have control over your time and you can attend more to your kids," said Luciano Castillo, 46, who raises four children. Her husband works as a plumber.

Another worker, Lilia Mendoza, 37, said she also enjoys working for an hour every day to reach the workplace. She finishes at least 20 bags a day earning an average of P1,200 a week.

Representatives of the Meno and the SMKC are making the rounds in public schools and factories to promote the EcoBags. They have also joined bazaars in Cavite and in Metro Manila.

# Spain, Paraguay barge into last 8

## Fifa boss apologizes for referees' blunders

JOHANNESBURG—SPAIN AND PARAGUAY SQUEEZED INTO the World Cup quarterfinals on Tuesday while Fifa boss Sepp Blatter apologized for two colossal refereeing blunders that have created the tournament's biggest controversy.

While the last 16 round now, the World Cup is now taking a break until Friday when two of the world's most talented sides, Netherlands and Brazil, lock off the first quarterfinal.

Pre-tournament favorite Spain beat Bosnian rival Portugal, 1-0, in Cape Town, thanks to a goal from in-form striker David Villa, who became the tournament's joint top scorer with four.

After a lively duel from Barcelona the duo, Villa saw his first effort blocked by goalkeeper Eduardo but managed to put the rebound into the net off the crossbar in the 63rd minute.

Though failing to score more, Spain looked classy and kept the world's most expensive player, Cristiano Ronaldo, largely at bay apart from one surviving free kick.

### First penalty shootout

"We're working well, we want to create a bit of history," said coach Vicente del Bosque, who hopes to bring the trophy back to Spain for the first time.

In Tuesday's first game in Pretoria, Paraguay beat Japan, 3-5, on penalties after a goalless draw, marking the quarter-finals for the first time in its history and making Asian interest in the tournament.

In the first showcase of the tournament—an agonizing way to end games, hated by players and coaches—Japan's Yuichi Komano hit the crossbar with the third kick, while Paraguay's players kept their cool as the first home confidently.

"It's never nice for a coach to be decided in this way," said Paraguay's coach Gerardo Martino, who steps uncomfortably in his degree after striker Oscar Cardozo missed the winner.

Paraguay's only stadium if the first time four South American teams have reached the World Cup quarterfinals.

The quarterfinal matches are as follows: Netherlands vs Brazil and Uruguay vs Ghana on Friday, then Argentina vs Germany and Paraguay vs Spain/Japan on Saturday.

World soccer body Fifa's boss Blatter, who has for years opposed technology used to settle controversies in most other major sports, did on about turn after two glaring referee errors on Sunday caused an outcry in soccer circles worldwide.

"It would be a nonsense not to reopen the file on goalline technology," he said.

### Errant referees sacked

Blatter apologized to the English and Mexican football federations after blatantly wrong decisions—English midfielder Frank Lampard's disallowed goal that crossed the line in the 4-1 loss to Germany, and Carlos Tevez's clear offside for his goal in Argentina's 3-1 defeat of Mexico.

The referees responsible for those two decisions have been dropped for the rest of the event.

Blatter also gave a nod waving to the French government not to interfere in moves to the dismissals of Les Bleus' shambolic exit after a player revolt.

"In France they have made an 'affaire d'Etat' with football," he said, adding that France's national and club teams could be banned from international competition if the government did not stay out of soccer affairs.

President Nicolas Sarkozy has called for a shakeup of soccer, a parliamentary commission is looking into the French debacle, and Sports Minister Roselyne Bachelot said the resignation of the French Football Federation president was "unavoidable" a couple of days before he quit.

Underlining how soccer is an emotive issue than a game, Iran's government crowed that the early exit of England, France and the United States was just punishment for their opposition to Tehran's nuclear program.

"Those countries which played a key role in imposing new sanctions against Iran—the England, America and France—were all eliminated in the preliminary phases," foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said.

Reuters

UNDAUNTED David Villa (left) fights for the ball against Portugal's Ricardo Costa during their match at Green Point stadium in Cape Town. AFP

# Venus eclipsed by unheralded Bulgarian

LONDON—SERENA WILLIAMS WAS LEFT all alone crying to crush an unlikely spoiling on Wimbledon's Hallowed Lawns on Tuesday as sister Venus and Kim Clijsters suffered tough defeats in the women's quarter-finals.

By the time defending champion Williams stepped on Centre Court before beating Dinara Safina 7-5 6-3, Venus had been thumped by Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova and Clijsters, seen as the main obstacle to another Saturday sister act, had crumbled to a three-set defeat against 21st seed Francesca Schiavone.

World number 82 Pironkova, who charmed the Centre Court crowd during a dazzling 6-2, 6-3 defeat of Venus, will face 21st seed Schiavone in the last four with the prize of a first appearance in a grand slam final tantalisingly close for both.

Serena, now overwhelming favourite to bag a fourth Wimbledon title and a 13th major crown, will direct her considerable firepower at Petra Kvitova in the other semi-final after the unseeded Czech saved five match points to subdue Estonian qualifier Kaia Kanepi, 4-6, 7-5, 8-6.

On a day of surprises it was Pironkova who stole the limelight as she inflicted a worst ever Wimbledon defeat on five-time winner Venus to become the first Bulgarian in such a grand slam semi-final in modern times.

"Wimbledon has always been like a religion to me," said the 22-year-old Pironkova, whose greater variety of shot completely nullified Venus's power advantage. "I don't think it's just for me. I think it's for all of the players."

Venus, 30, won the singles here in 2007 and 2008 before withdrawing for the trophy to Serena last year.

The Americans also joined forces to win the women's doubles in the last two years but Pironkova, who had never advanced past the second round of a major, is clearly not in awe of Venus having beaten her once before at the 2006 Australian Open.

Her task now will be to carry the form she showed on Tuesday into the match against Schiavone, one of the less celebrated of the Russian brigade that has invaded the latter stages of grand slams for the past decade.

Missing logged the opening game but the first six games were shared, Clijsters on her way and allowed herself to be pushed around by the Russian who peppered the corners with some powerful, penetrating groundstrokes.

Clijsters, who quit the game in 2007 to start a family, is a thoroughly subdued and her husband Bill to player as Clijsters cruised back to win 3-6 6-4 6-2.

Reuters

PETRA Kvitova celebrates victory o

PEA READ-ALONG Si Mng Dmby Sun supervisor James Yap reads to some 30 orphans from the House of Refuge during Sunday's Read to Lead outreach program of the PBA at the Araneta Coliseum. joining Yap in the 30-minute program is PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios, the brain behind the project aimed at encouraging kids to read books.

# Honoring Noynoy; avoiding an Ate Glo

HE SACKED ANOTHER LAWMAKER, BUT Justice Alfedo, city mayor of Muntinlupa, did a favorite Aquino with his prompt response to the dismissal of four beleaguered consumers.

"Sorry I did not happen to be an engineer," Mayor Aladin, a lawyer, told the boycotters over the phone Monday afternoon.

Just the same, he wanted no time and sent the city engineer, who was observed during a spot check amid water-soaking concrete measures outside the Muntinlupa Executive Mansion (MEM) (P.S. the latter's here).

* * *

Like President Benigno Aquino, Alfedo has room a "no-go of hope" for meaningful changes.

While his response that procedure substitute to the disastrous flooding when experienced by residents in the lower area towards SEM, Alfedo gave people reasons to believe in government again.

On Friday, heads of affected families in Magsaysay will join decision-makers from the city government, headed by chief of staff Vic Herrera, to work out a solution to the distressing situation.

* * *

Actually, members of these affected families had quietly called with the president, so to say, he might shoot his cruel flooding by the pass.

Ten after last Thursday when disease carrying solid wastes—not mere floodwater—swooped down on the kitchen neighborhood, residents were found in sets to Mayor Alfedo.

* * *

It's quite subtle because Barrios had to make a clean break of it after they did a dirty media butcher job (see in the beginning) on him.

He was made to look inept and ineffective.

Actually, Barrios said, he had informed the PBA board of his desire to exit as early as June last year.

He assured her would not stand in the way of anybody.

"Deputy Commissioner Chito Salud is quite qualified and is well prepared to take over," Barrios said.

* * *

Of course, contrary to insinuations, Barrios did quite well.

He mentioned two big corporations now hoping to join the pro league.

"They won't be interested in the PBA if it's into mere gangway," he said.

What strikes fadeal to see was that franchise did not cover the commissioner only.

He was forced to execute the league following the commonly exit of Sonji Baka.

Before that, he satisfied as a struggling head and served as acting commissioner when the late Jun Bernardino got sick in 2001.

Barrios, who has four the PBA a deeper business touch by reaching out to other sponsors, was named Executive of the Year (2001-1) by the PBA Press Corps.

On the whole, Barrios' public acceptances, unlike the controversial his Obi, was about average.

BARE EYE

*Recaib Trinidad*

* * *

It was later discovered that, contrary to claims by Orlando Cup, developer behind the Muntinlupa Executive Mansion, no suitable additional drainage system was put together to service the new 400 condo units of MEM 111. Built on a swamp area that used to serve as a catch basin in the upscale housing area.

But the second, Mayor Alfedo, in the past, also came to the rescue of families victimized by forces from a giant cigarette factory in Alabang. Now a chainsmoker lifestyle that has drowned children with poisonous pendulous fumes.

* * *

He's no fan of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, but that's not the reason evasive PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios has refused to cling to power indefinitely.

What Barrios, a genuine gentleman, actually did was avoid doing a PEBA.

Barrios stiffened to step down as PBA head ahead of schedule.

He said he's going "anyway than later."

He explained he's planning his exit plans with the current PBA season entering the playoff phase.

# Woods says James should be a Laker

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—

Golfer Tiger Woods weighed in on the LeBron James free agency debate Tuesday saying he has his own ideas about where the National Basketball Association star should end up next season.

"Yeah, actually I would love to see him go to the (Los Angeles) Lakers," Woods said. "I'm in LA guy, me't help it. You would be interesting, wouldn't it?"

James is the most coveted player available entering the NBA free agency period which begins Thursday at 9 p.m.

"But you're free agents are considered to be one of the greatest guys that we've been available.

JAMES

Woods is in Philadelphia this week so to try and defend his title at the PGA Tour's AT&T National at the Aronimink Golf Club.

Woods also told reporters Tuesday that his dominant father, Earl, speaks to him during crucial moments in tournaments. "When I get out there, sometimes I'll even hear his voice coming down the stretch on the back nine. That's pretty neat," Woods said. AFP

NBA clubs have been clearing payroll for years just so they'd be in position to offer mainstream salaries to players like James, Dwyane Wade or Chris Bosh.

Woods likes the Lakers chances because he grew up in Los Angeles.

# Alcantara drops 3-setter in 3rd round

FRANCIS CASEY ALCANTARA came within a set of reaching the Wimbledon boys' singles quarterfinal before losing errant and eventually getting the boot Tuesday.

Ricardo Arguello of Argentina took advantage of the Filipino's erratic game in the decisive third set to back out a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win to advance against Filip Horansky of Slovakia, who ousted Lorcan Mikels Libreza, 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 6-3.

Alcantara won the first set with his aggressiveness, opening up with 27 winners against Arguello's 22.

But the 18-year-old Alcantara committed 32 unforced errors, most of them in the third set, which Arguello exploited to the hilt.

Alcantara rounded the second round at the expense of French Grégoire Barrere, 6-3, 7-6, 11-9, Monday.

He and Jason Brotherhood will return to action in the boys' doubles scheduled to start Wednesday at the All England Club.

Gunmara and Oliver Golding of Great Britain will face Filipino-American Raymond Sarmiento and Dennis Bulla of the U.S. Marc Anthony Reyes

ALCANTARA

# Imports key in RoS-Ginebra playoff tomorrow

By Mayong S. Castillo

RAIN OR SHINE COACH CALOY GARIDO was disappointed despite gaining a slot in an outright quarterfinal slot in the PBA-Petron Conference last Sunday.

While many welcomed the extra rest with the playoff rescheduled for tomorrow, instead of yesterday due to the inauguration of President Benigno Aquino, Garido said the complete may not work in favor of the Elasto Painters.

"It would work both ways...we will lose momentum with the rest that we are having and they will be able to break in their new import," Garido said, referring to Barangay Ginebra and new import Chris Daniels, who was set to arrive last Monday and would have seen action in a knockout match two days later.

"If we play on Wednesday, it would be safe to say that (ex-)Ig (Arnold) affirm their new import," he added. "And I am sure they are getting a good rest and looking forward to playing again as soon as possible."

The Painters will cross tires tomorrow(3 p.m., courtesy-opener) the GinKings on a must-game winning streak with new import Bud Foddy, a former Glasilers drained determined to prove himself again.

As for the Kings, coach Jong Uichico said he hopes that Daniels would jell right away with the squad after going 9-9 in the eliminations with Aaron Sherry and then Nikdan Anthony and Dion Glover.

"I hope he's the last one for us," Uichico told reporters. "The break allowed him (Daniels) to acclimatize himself while getting to know his teammates. Basketball-wise. There are no practice, he is a role player."

Daniels has no NBA experience and will come direct from a stint in Poland.

San Miguel and Derby Ace, on the other hand, play to the 7:30 p.m. game also scheduled at the Nieves Aquino Stadium with on less than an automatic Final Four seat at stake. Both finished tied the second behind Talk 'N' Text with 13-5 records.

KINGS import Chris Daniels

## PCTSI-Orchard 1st round scores

TOMY Lascuña reacts on his putting stroke before scanning a birdie on 18.

# Lascuña shows way with a 66

## Casas one shot off Orchard pace

By Mayong S. Castillo

DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE—PRECISE WITH HIS approaches and putting, Antonio Lascuña fired a flawless 6-under-par 66 yesterday to seize a one-stroke lead over Carmelo Casas after the opening round of the PCTSI Orchard Championship at the Playa course here.

With perfected line in effect due to overnight rains, the dainty veteran opened up with birdies on three of his first four holes and then pulled three more on the back nine in his finest start since the Philippine Golf Tour started three years ago.

"I have been hitting it well for the past weeks," Lascuña, a graduate of both The Country Club-International several years back, said in Filipino. "Hopefully, I can sustain this (form) and go all the way."

Lascuña also picked up three on fives, 14 and 15 and the 18th as he finished the front he showed in the closing pars-rated behind Toni are Chonville Playbird in the ICTSI Makaryan Championship last week.

Casas finished birdie-birdie for his 67, two-stroke edge of his biggest threat in the field of 144 players, four-time Philippine Amateur and ace-maker Benjie Magada.

All told, 20 players cracked par and 18 others done level-72s under clear skies and calm conditions.

But the heralded Juvic Pagunsan couldn't get going, firing a 74 that left him eight strokes off the pace.

Using a thirty-seven 4-iron and a 30-foot PuttBall, Magada—who has lost count of the holes-in-one he has made in his career—scored his ace on the 206-yard fifth hole, his second since last year's Philippine Open at Mahayuni in Lipa City.

And the sturdy, eleven-year veteran said he could have done better had he used his fighting brown but preferred his index-worn ironsMost.

"The aces didn't even bother to tell me flight (about perfected line) when we teed off," Magada said the bayonet in Filipino. "Our flight could have scored lower. It's a shame (earned by all of us."

For his ace, Magada was gifted by organizers with P20,000 in cash and golf revitalizers.

Villabar recorded the front nine with a 31 after getting consecutive birdies on holes 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9 before bringing home with a 38 to land the amateur spot by three over national stars-ace Jomel Abebe, who had a 72.

Rookie pro Ruben Bayron, Ranell Flores, Randy Castillo, Jong Lapuz and Jay Bayron had 69s while Alan Dump and reigning SP Open champ Dino Salvador led a six-man group with identical 70s.

Bayron, who toiled the thirteen leg before winning third event, finishing third and second in three more tournaments in the last four weeks, was held down by a 39 on the front side where he dropped four strokes against a lone birdie.

Asian Tour campaigner Angelo Que, another favorite, needed to birdie the par-5 18th hole to salvage a 72.

# Angping urges next PSC chair to double Asiad gold incentive

By Jane Navarro

OUTGOING PHILIPPINE SPORTS Commission chief Harry Angping yesterday urged his successor to continue the incentive scheme for top performing athletes in the upcoming Asian Games to encourage them.

Angping had earlier breathed the idea of doubling the cash incentive for every medal gold to P2 million, saying the agency could afford this since it "would be getting at least P65 million from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. every month.

After revising main P20 million for the allowances and training of athletes, the PSC would get a savings of P15 million, or P90 million for the next six months, which could be used to sweeten the incentive package for gold medalists, he said.

"I hope that the new chairman will use that (higher) money judiciously for the development of sports," said Angping, who will remain officer-in-charge until President Benigno Aquino III appoints the next chair of the government sports agency.

"The only way to further motivate the athletes is to provide additional incentives," said Angping. "I hope the next administration will adopt the PSC's program of giving out an additional P1 million for every gold in the Asiad."

The PSC also boosted the incentive package during the 2009 SEA Games in Laos by providing an additional cash bonus of P100,000 for every gold.

"There's no (more PSC-supported sports) infrastructure to build or repair, so focus should now be on the athletes and the recruitment of new talents," said Angping, who completed 15 projects as PSC-owned facilities during his 18-month tenure.

Wushu artist Rene Catalan picked up P1 million for winning an Asiad gold in Qatar in 2004.

The former Manila representative and softball fanatic also streamlined the workforce of the PSC, held the first-SP Sports Hall of Fame awards ceremonies, and paid off the agency's outstanding loan payables.

# *Marikina plays host to AsPac baseball*

By DJ Yap

CHINESE TAIPEI HERE TO BE, nals in crown when the Asia Pacific leg of the Pony Baseball world championship gets going on July 17 at the Sto. Niño baseball field in Marikina City.

The championships of the week-long tournament will earn a slot in the Pony Baseball World Series slated July 31 to Aug. 5 in Washington, Pennsylvania.

Host Philippines will also see action in a separate Southeast Asian division, where it will go up against Indonesia.

The Southeast Asian champion will compete in the Pony 13/World Series in August 2011 in Fullerton, California.

The opening ceremony will be graced by newly elected officials led by Mayor Del de Guzman, Vice Mayor Marides Fernando, and second district rep. Miro Quimbo.

"The local government's baseball program for the youth is ready to impressive," said Philippine Baseball Federation president Rodolfo Tingson Jr.

Marikina is actually hosting the tournament for the third time in the years

## Sportswatch

### Sports accessory Phiten said to improve flexibility

PHITEN WITH TITANIUM AND NEGATIVE ION ACCESSORIES have since put as a favorite among athletes and sportsmen through features that its makers believe improve athletic performance.

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According to medical technicians in the United States, wearing Phiten necklaces is believed to improve blood circulation to help the body achieve optimum rest.

BY TOP CHOICE
Jo San Lazaro GP

# MP Gensan five turns back host Mandaue; MisOr scores

THE MP PACMAN GENSAN WARRIORS spoiled the home debut of the Mandaue City Leechasers with a thrilling 68-65 victory Tuesday night in the fourth leg of the Tournament of the Philippines at the Mandaue City Cultural and Sports Center.

The Warriors of hosting hero and former guard Rep. Manny Pacquiao rallied from a 14-point seven-quarter deficit to score their first victory on the road.

Mauricio Ortencial overwhelmed struggling ARELPCA, 96-72, in the first game of the tournament jointly organized by the Philippine Basketball League and Liga Filipinas.

"We didn't let up even with our big lead," said Mauricio coach Jun Hizel.

The Warriors, despite making just six of their 26 bid shots, turned their game up a notch in the fourth period, where they outscored the Leechasers, 22-8.

"I just told them to keep on trying hard," said Gensan coach Fons Del Rosario.

Mauricio and Gensan would meet in the finals with wins over Mandaue and ARELPCA, respectively last night. GMANEW Sports

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# Biado tops Pacman 10-ball, bags P1M

CADIZ BIADO OVERWHELMED JOHANN Chua, 11-5, in the finals to rule the Sunsport Sta. Mesa Pacquiao 10-ball tournament in Gabriel Storrie City late Tuesday.

Biado, the pride of La Union and playing for Bingo Promotions of businessman Rory Martinez, pocketed the champion's purse of P1 million just up by the seven-division world boxing champion who is also an avid pool enthusiast.

Chua settled for P500,000 second prize with Arnold Mazon and Efren Calumpang picking up P300,000 each for sharing third.

Biado earlier edged Mazon, 13-10, and Chua downed Calumpang, 11-8, in the semifinals to emerge the title clash.

The tournament also drew some of the country's top players, including former World 9-ball runner-up Roberto Gomez, Rodolfo Luat, Ramil Gallego, Bernardino Pulpul and Warren Kiamco. Steve Allan, Contributor

SPORTS
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# Mixed RP result as WPC unfolds

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BIG START Dennis Orcollo, while eliciting favor, annoyances German ace Ralf Souquet.

## Orcollo downs Souquet; Bata, De Luna fall

DENNIS ORCOLLO AND UNHERALDED competitor Israel Bata pulled off stunning reversals Wednesday, even as compatriots Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Lee Van Corteza crashed to opening-round victories in the 2010 WPA World Pool Championships in Doha, Qatar.

Their victories came mere minutes apart for the defiant redhead by Efren "Bata" Reyes and Jeff De Luna against their respective opponents.

Orcollo, coming off a victory in last month's World Pool Masters, unnerved Ian Brey Isorena by sending double-world champion Ralf Souquet to the losers bracket in Group 9 with a 9-6 victory and forging a duel with Chris Melling of Britain for a place in the knockout stage.

### Cabsano foils Peach

The Qatar-based Bata, who hails from Ormoc, stunned defending champion Daryl Peach of Britain, 9-8, Peach ruled the event in Manila in 2005, when he outclassed Roberto Gomez in the finals.

Standing in the way of Bata's bid to reach the knockout stage is Taiwan's Nguyen Phuc Long, who nipped Aileen Rodriguez, 9-8, in Group 10.

Bustamante, winner of the Japan Open recently, trounced Italy's Fabio Petroni, 9-7, to move within a victory of clinching one of the four spots in the round in Group 5.

The Iloilo City-born pool shark clashes with Tokyo Kashiyoshi of Japan, with the survivor advancing to the knockout phase of the event that stakes $30,000 to the champion.

A runner-up to Mika Immonen in the World 10-ball Championship in Manila last year, Corteza showed summoner form with a 9-1 drubbing of Ibrahim Al-Shaaba of Syria.

Corteza vies for a spot in the next round against Germany's Christian Reinering, who defeated Mihali Ivo Czech Skowronek, 9-5.

Reyes, the tournament's 1999 winner, was pushed to the brink of elimination, after absorbing a 5-9 setback to Ou Hsihao of China.

### De Luna struggles again

De Luna, who has struggled to regain consistency, failed to hack the mood as he took a 9-6 loss to Thailand's Nikorn Kanjanasut.

Also winning their first-round matches were unheralded Filipinos Joven Alba, who pulled off a tight 9-8 victory over compatriot Marlon Manalo, and Unit-based players Oliver Menaville, Raymund Paine and Allan Casareno.

Medenilla encounter Jeong Young-Hun of South Korea, 9-6, in Group 9; Casareno downed Chan Kong Hoong of Singapore, 9-7, in Group 8; and Rivera crushed Mark Gray of Germany, 9-2, in Group 12.

Other Filipinos seeing action in the $250,000 event are Antonio Lining, who is scheduled to face Corey Deuel of the United States; Jeremy Gallena, former double-world champion Ronnie Alcano, Alexander Tinio and Francisco Infiesto.

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**DID YOU KNOW**

AFTER MANUEL L. Quezon and Sergio Osmeña took their oaths as President and Vice President in 1935, the US Secretary of War declared that the Philippine government had entered upon its rights, privileges, powers and duties, as provided in the Philippine Constitution.

*Cyril C. Bulalacao, Inquirer Research*

# Temporary glitch in lotto operations

## Clogged vents cause erratic service; back to normal today

By Nancy Carvajal

DUST THAT ACCUMULATED IN THE AIR-CONDITION vents of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) main computer center led to a temporary shutdown in operations at the lotto terminals, according to PCSO spokesperson Dr. Larry Cedro.

The technical problem was limited to Luzon, including Metro Manila.

"The connection problems were caused by dust that gathered at the air-condition vents of the main computer center where it was shut down to give way to a renovation," Cedro said.

He added that the Quezon City Main Computer Center (QCMCC) was temporarily deactivated as part of the retrofitting process implemented by the Philippine Gaming Management Corp. (PGMC), the system provider of the La..com.ph.

The QCMCC, located on the second floor of the PCSO main office, is the custodian of collected data from all the agency's online lottery games.

"Since the start of the renovation, the online lottery games were using the Makati City computer center to collect all information, including bets and sales," he explained.

Cedro added that as part of the contract with the PGMC, an alternative center should be ready.

He admitted that they had received complaints regarding the connection lines' "intermittent technical problems, but its effect on the entire sales was not substantial."

The glitches in the lotto terminals of various outlets started on June 27 after the QCMCC was activated without a test run.

When the renovation was almost complete, the QCMCC connection lines were immediately opened, Cedro added.

"Because of the complaints, the QCMCC had to be shut down again and we had to completely revert to the Makati center. But the problem has been solved," he said.

The PCSO spokesperson assured the public that operations would be back to normal today.

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CHEVROLET

## Chevrolet Cruze: Slick Style and Superb Safety On Your Every Drive

*Offering an upgrade that fits your lifestyle*

Owning a Chevrolet car is as convenient as it can get. A team of engineering and design experts from around the world collaborated their efforts to create this Global Car – The All-New Chevrolet Cruze. Based on the Delta II Platform and with its parts designed and built to withstand varied climate and road conditions tested worldwide — from the heat of the Arabian Desert to the harsh snow of Antarctica —, this car will take our roads without breaking a sweat. The Cruze also raises the bar in its segment with its exterior styling, interior design, performance, safety, and overall quality and execution . It's an upgrade that fits your every need and lifestyle.

Along with its durability, the Cruze has achieved a best-in-class, 5-star safety ratings from the European New Car Assessment Programme (Euro NCAP), the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP), and the Chinese New Car Assessment Program (C-NCAP) toppling all its Japanese and European counterparts. The Cruze is built with Global Quality, Performance, and Safety in hand, each of which is appropriately equipped to match Filipino taste, needs, or requirements. So, whether you're looking for looks, fuel efficiency, performance, safety, upscale quality that's within the budget and easy-to-maintain, expect the All-New Chevrolet Cruze to be the best suited for you. With the low maintenance cost and convenient servicing intervals at every 10,000kms, the Chevrolet Cruze is not only amazing quick and easy ownership but peace of mind as well. Now that's a deal that's friendly on everyone's pocket and convenient for every busy urbanite.

So hurry, test drive a Chevy Cruze today and ask about the Take-It-Easy packages now!

# Noynoy's doable promises

IF NOY GAVE US HOPE OF A BRIGHT FUture in his inaugural speech at the Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park yesterday.

If everything the 53-year-old President promised us in his speech is fulfilled, the country will be great again (with apologies to one of his predecessors).

His six-year reign will be heaven on earth.

Let's help our new President fulfill those promises.

+++

His promises are simple and, therefore, doable. Thus are:

• No one will take advantage of his brethren (Walang kamangyan).

• No one will be allowed to use his power or influence to get promoted, get away with any wrongdoing, corner government contracts, etc. (Walang padrino)

• Nobody in power will be allowed to throw his weight around in the streets using sirens (Walang wang wang).

• Graft and corruption will never be allowed (Walang kong).

Those are words easier said than done, but our new President says they can be done.

**Let's take him at his word.**

+++

I was at the luncheon after the oath-taking ceremony of the new Pasay City mayor, Antonino Calixto, and his sister, newly elected Rep. Imelda Calixto-Rubiano, which I and hundreds of other guests heard the President's speech on the restaurant's big TV screen.

If Noy's words, "Walang kamangyan, walang padrino, walang wang wang, walang kong," reverberated through the Chinese restaurant's very spacious function room on the second floor.

One of the lucky guests at my table commented: "Parang narinig ko ito 'yon noon (It seems I've heard that line before)."

Seconds later, the TV camera focused on the face of former President Erap, who was one of the invited guests to the inaugural.

Everybody at the table laughed. Pls leave artistic the help we rendered to Erap's inaugural speech in 1998: "Walang kaibigan, walang kaaway, walang kamag-anakgawad sa ating sistema, susyon (Sin: friends and relatives will hold sway in my administration)."

Ah, less Erap and Noynoy are very different—like oil and water!

Erap has many vices while Noynoy has only one, smoking.

One new President doesn't gamble and drink and womanize.

Erap had cronies who abused him and his power; Noynoy seems to have none. None, so far, who looks like a thief.

+++

**The Calixto siblings of Pasay City**—Mayor Antonino and Congresswoman Imelda—have promised to eliminate the drug problem in the "city city" and bring down the crime rate in their inaugural speeches.

Antonino and Imelda will work hand in hand.

Imelda will hold office hours for her brother's office at the Pasay City Hall.

If the Calixto brother-sister team will be able to solve the drug problem and bring down the high crime rate in the city, more businesses will come to Pasay.

This means more progress for the city.

One of the world's biggest malls, Mall of Asia, is located in the city.

More people visit Pasay City than other places in Metro Manila because of the Mall of Asia.

+++

If Mayor Calixto wants to make himself closer to his constituents, he should take good care of the city's People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) headed by Marissa Mendoza.

PLEB, which hears citizens' complaints against policemen, has the power to dismiss abusive and corrupt cops.

Many cops in Pasay are allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade and in jueteng operations.

**ON TARGET**

*Ronnie Tuffy*

# Stronger MMDA necessary for Metro dev't, says expert

By DJ Yap

BENAVIDES—A STRONG METRO Manila government is necessary for the sustainable growth and development of the cities under its control, a Dutch expert on city development said here on Tuesday on the sidelines of the World Cities Summit.

But that would mean having go of some "historical baggage" that identified a powerful Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) with Imelda Marcos, according to Emiel Wegelin, program coordinator of the Cities Development Initiative for Asia.

"There's a need to revisit the whole role of the MMDA. That really needs to be looked at in the cold light of what the requirements are in order to make the city more functional," he told the bayanan in an interview.

But Wegelin admitted that the move would "not necessarily be wildly popular."

"A strong Metropolitan Manila government is still associated with Imelda Marcos rightly or wrongly. But you can't get away from that connection," he said.

"That also needs to be overcome, and people need to be aware that if the powers of the MMDA would be reinforced, it doesn't mean going back to the Marcos era. It's a functional necessity that does requires quite a bit of public communication," he said.

Wegelin, who led one of the plenary sessions in the summit yesterday, died on Wednesday afternoon, said he would also expect major resistance from Metro Manila mayors, who fund other parties into squabbles with the MMDA over the powers it could or could not exercise in traffic enforcement and waste management.

But he said the administration of President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III would do well to give the MMDA more powers.

"It will go a lot of resistance [from the mayors], but this is something you can do early in the administration when you're at the honeymoon stage," Wegelin said.

He said he thought the Aquino administration has one to "a very good situation now because any incoming new administration can afford to take some risks."

# Calixto is new Pasay mayor

By Nina Calleja

ANTONINO CALIXTO WAS SWORN in as Pasay mayor yesterday morning, vowing to improve the city's programs on health and education.

A Pasay councilor for six years and vice mayor for three consecutive terms, he took his oath before Judge Ibarle Corrales of Pasay Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 49 at the Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in the city.

The mayor was joined by his sister, Rep. Imelda Calixto-Rubiano of Pasay's lone district, and four councilors who also took their oaths.

Jimmy de Pasia, Calixto's media officer, said the mayor promised to increase the number of Philhealth card recipients in Pasay City from 5,000 to 50, 000.

"His priorities will be health and education," he added.

Calixto also promised to intensify the building campaign in Pasay, which has been ranked as one of the favorite spots of drug syndicates in Metro Manila.

De Pasia also denied reports that Calixto plans to sweep supporters of outgoing Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad out of City Hall, saying that most of the city employees enjoy permanent status.

"But, definitely, we will bring in a number of qualified people to the city government," the media officer said.

# Court denies Ivler's request for surgery

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A QUEZON CITY JUDGE HAS DENIED trial court Judge Jaime Ivler's petition for his confinement at St. Luke's Medical Center to undergo surgery for recurring cancer.

The motion was first filed by his lawyers on June 18 before Judge Alexander Balce of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 96.

The surgery was originally set for June 23.

After rolling Balce gave the prosecution 15 days to submit its comment or opposition before he could issue a ruling. But until now, there has been no reply from prosecutors.

"It will take some time for the court to resolve the motion, well beyond the day they (defense) sent it in the motion," a court staffer said.

Ivler, who is facing murder charges for the death of Renato Victor Dante Jr. in November 2009, was wounded in a shoot-out with National Bureau of Investigation agents who came to arrest him.

He sustained injuries in his legs, intestines, prompting doctors to perform a colostomy (creation of an artificial anus).

## METRO BRIEFS

### Corona sworn in as Ichiveri

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato Corona was sworn in as an associate justice of the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon to take his oath of office before Chief Justice Reynato Puno. Earlier in the day, Corona had attended the inauguration of President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III at the Quirino Grandstand in Roxas Blvd. Ichiveri and Corona are both members of the Ateneo Law School's Fraternal Order of Utopia.

**Beverly T. Gutierrez**

### No traffic problems

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reported no traffic incidents on roads and other thoroughfares in Metro Manila during the inauguration of President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III at Rizal Park. Jojo Ebio, traffic operations of MMDA Mobilwatch, said the number of vehicles traveling on Edsa slowed significantly when the inaugural rites started at around 11 a.m. until the time Aquino proceeded to Malacañang for a welcoming lunch. **Mitos Gallaga**


**AS-BAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**
**Pre-Bids & Awards Committee**
**W. Vinson St., Mitac District, Legaspi City**

**INVITATION TO BID**

The Asbay Electric Cooperative, Inc., through its Pre-Bids & Awards Committee (PBAC) hereby invites interested suppliers/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder enumerated contract/ project/ equipment:

| LOT | Bid Ref. | Technical Services Requirements | ABC (Php) | Cost of Bid Docs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38<br>(ELC-IFD-10-07-39<br>Infrastructure-2010-1 | Electrical Spec. Rig | 14,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Diesel Roll, 5,000 x 7 | 35,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Lateral Pile, Model "P" | 5,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Compression connection, aluminum, prefilled with corrosion joint compound and wire sealed, individually packaged, type "PC-4/0" | 125,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Compression connection, aluminum, prefilled with corrosion joint compound and wire sealed, individually packaged, main conductor "4/0 ACSR" | 180,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Compression connection, aluminum, prefilled with corrosion joint compound and wire sealed, individually packaged, main conductor "4/0 ACSR" to tap conductor "2/0 ACSR" | 80,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Compression connection, aluminum, prefilled with corrosion joint compound and wire sealed, individually packaged, main conductor "4/0 ACSR" to tap conductor "2/0 ACSR" | 140,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Compression connection, aluminum, prefilled with corrosion joint compound and wire sealed, individually packaged, main conductor "2/0 ACSR" to tap conductor "2/0 ACSR" | 120,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Compression connection, aluminum, prefilled with corrosion joint compound and wire sealed, individually packaged, main conductor "4/0 ACSR" to tap conductor "1/0 ACSR" | 154,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Service Drop Wire, Insulated, #4 AWG, Duplex type, XLPE, insulated, max. of 600V, suitable for outdoor installation, high mechanical strength, high impact resistance, conductor stranded, Cu/Silver | 200,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Service Drop Wire, Insulated, #2 AWG, Duplex type, XLPE, insulated, max. of 600V, suitable for outdoor installation, high mechanical strength, high impact resistance, conductor stranded, Cu/Silver | 150,000,000 | |
| | | | 2,940,000,000 | |
| 2 | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38<br>Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Single Phase Underslung, Distribution Center, Aluminum, Welding, with 4x, 4W configuration, galvanized supports with 3-C Angle, Surface Mounted, complete with accessories and terminal lugs, with GEE certificate | 4,000,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Pedal, Steel, Aluminum, single phase, 2000 Volts, Nom. Voltage, 7.2 kV, 2 wire configuration, CT (S), Load Break Cores, suitable type with GEE certificate | 1,700,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Single phase, Distribution Center, Aluminum, Welding, Nom. Voltage, 7.2 kV, 2 wire configuration, CT (S), Load Break Cores, suitable type with GEE certificate | 1,000,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Cutout, Nom. Cu, 2000 Volts, With GEE seal | 400,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Arrester, Lightning, Nom. Voltage, 7.2 kV, 2 wire configuration, CT (S), Load Break Cores, suitable type with GEE certificate | 600,000,000 | |
| | | | 8,700,000,000 | |
| 3 | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38<br>Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Pole, Steel, 10M, Nom. Thickness 3.0mm | 1,800,000,000 | 5000.00 |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Pole, Steel, 12M, Nom. Thickness 3.0mm | 1,700,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Pole, Steel, 15M, Nom. Thickness 3.0mm | 1,400,000,000 | |
| | Infrastructure-2010-1<br>(ELC-IFD-10-06-38 | Pole, Steel, 40M, Nom. Thickness 3.0mm | 1,400,000,000 | |
| | | | 6,300,000,000 | |

The complete set of bidding documents can be obtained at ASBAY PBAC Secretariat Con Ha Cecile A. Arbolonda, Asbay Electric Cooperative upon payment of non-refundable non-transferable amount as indicated above. Only bidders who purchased bid documents are allowed to attend or ask questions during the Pre-Bid conference.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Issuance of Bid Documents | Starting July 1, 2010 |
| 2. | Pre-Bid Conference | July 13, 2010 @ 9:00 am |
| 3. | Opening of Bids | July 27, 2010 @ 2:00 pm |

Do not document shall be issued on the date it opening. The bidding shall be governed by the existing provisions of RA9184, Cooperative Procurement Manual of National Electrification Administration.

The Asbay Electric Cooperative, Inc. reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) MR. JOSE T. ABUERA
Chairman
Pre-bids and Awards Committee

(PEN - June 30 & July 1, 2010)

Pag-IBIG Fund

**INVITATION TO BID**

**PROVISION OF A REGULAR AND COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR CONDITIONING UNITS INSTALLED AT THE HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS AND NCR BRANCHES FOR AUGUST 2010 - JULY 2012**

The HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND Bids and Awards Committee - Goods and Services (HDMF BAC-GS), through the HDMF Corporate Budget for August 2010 – July 2011 intends to apply the sum of FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY PESOS ( PhP 5,431,740.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Provision of a Comprehensive Maintenance Services for the Air Conditioning Units installed at the Home Development Mutual Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for August 2010 - July 2012. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The HDMF BAC-GS now invites bids for the Provision of a Comprehensive Maintenance Services for the Air Conditioning Units installed at the Home Development Mutual Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for August 2010 – July 2012. Bidders should have completed, within three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II, Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from HDMF BAC-GS Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at Room 701, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting July 1, 2010 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the HDMF BAC-GS Secretariat, Room 701, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting July 1, 2010 upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand PhP 5,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash or manager's check payable to HDMF. The Bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The bidding documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.net and the website of the HDMF at www.pagibigfund.gov.ph, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of bids.

The HDMF BAC-GS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on July 8, 2010, 2:30 P.M. at the Tatalon Hall, Room 603, 6th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be submitted on July 22, 2010 at the HDMF BAC-GS Secretariat, Room 701, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City not later than 1:30 PM. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on July 22, 2010, 2:00 P.M., at the Tatalon Hall, Room 603, 6th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The HDMF BAC-GS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfredo Nacilla S. Reyes or Jose Maria M. Diaz at 811-4363/8814-5823 or visit our Corporate Website.

**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE GOODS AND SERVICES**

By:

(Sgd.) **FLORENTINO E. PEÑAÑA, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Administrative Services Sector and
Chair, BAC-GS

(PEN - July 1, 2010)

# 8 militants killed in battle at Afghan airport

KABUL—MILITANTS SET OFF a car bomb and stormed the entrance to an airport in northern Afghanistan on Wednesday in a failed attempt to enter the secured base by Afghan and international forces, authorities said. Eight insurgents died in the ensuing gunfight.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the assault, carried on spreading its violence to the nearly 9-year-old war.

Using light weapons and rocket-propelled grenades, the militants fought international forces for 20 minutes on the outskirts of Mahtabad City, according to the provincial police chief and the media office at the airport.

An Afghan soldier and one international soldier were wounded in the fighting, Nato said.

"They were not able to breach the perimeter. They were fought off by a combination of Afghan and coalition security forces," German Army Maj. Gen. Josef Blotz, a spokesperson for Nato, told reporters at a briefing on Wednesday.

The air field, closed by Afghan and the international force, is situated on a main road that leads to the Pakistani border.

In countrywide attacks by the Associated Press in Kabul, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said six suicide attackers killed 32 foreign and Afghan security forces in the airport, and 125 Afghanistan-one of the Afghan capital. The insurgents often claim higher numbers of deaths in their attacks than the official toll.

Elsewhere in the east, US and Afghan forces battled hundreds of militants from an al-Qaida-linked group for a third day in Nuristan's Kamu province, the US military said. Two American soldiers were killed on Sunday in the first day of the operation.

The attack in Kamu was short-lived against insurgents believed responsible for the deadly shooting that killed five American service members in the area on June 7, a US statement said.

The militants were believed to be members of the Haqqani group, a faction of the Taliban based in Pakistan that has close ties to al-Qaida. About 1,000 US and Afghan troops are taking part in the operation.

On Tuesday in Kabul, an Afghan man working for the United Nations was shot and killed in his vehicle near a busy traffic circle.

The assassination, which was carried amid heavy traffic near Massoud circle, an intersection near the US Embassy and on a main road, will not have.

SMOKE rises from an Afghan air field, which Taliban militants attacked in a bid to enter an air Wednesday. AP

It remained unclear whether the UN attack was the intended target of the assassination, but officials extended condolences to the victim, who has not been identified.

Also on Tuesday, a roadside bomb wounded seven civilians in Arghistan district of Kandahar province, while three were killed in another civilian and wounded two others in Shorow district, the Afghan Ministry of Interior said.

Afghan and international forces are ramping up security to and around Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban.

Nato has said 40 insurgents had been killed or captured in a three-day operation aimed at disrupting insurgents in Panjwai district of Kandahar province, where they have plotted attacks on Kandahar.

In the past two months, joint forces have captured more than 115 suspected insurgents, including three that 15 middle- and senior-militant leaders, and destroyed four roadside improvised explosive devices. AP

# Fired banker's suit raises eyebrows

NEW YORK—IT MIGHT VIRAL AS the ultimate example of being punished for circumstances beyond one's control: A woman who was fired from her banking job because she complained that her male colleagues called her figure a workplace distraction.

Turns...after the rubbed headlines, the TV interviews, the New York Times column...came the disclosure that the human leader who said she couldn't function near the boobed had, in fact, helped it a lot, through a series of sarcastic requests she had scribbled on reality TV.

What Jessica Lewinsky asked state human rights officials on Monday to investigate her claims against Citibank—which the bank denies—her story had already become a credible meeting with touchy subjects: sexual harassment, women's work, plant fashion, society's obsession with beauty, attractions' mixed feelings about publicity-seeking. It's a morality play for the YouTube era.

But as commentators mingled from legal analysts to cosmetology enthusiasts about the possibilities of discrimination victims or a gold digger trying to cash in on male attention, she counted, the 33-year-old single mom at the center of it all says she's answered real trying to teach corporate America a lesson.

She followed the bank's dress code and tried to do her job, she says, and to admit if she moves to look—in her own words—like a Playboy model?

"There's nothing wrong with that," Lewinsky told AP a news conference. "I'm not ashamed of having been working in this white-collar culture."

LEWINSKI-ZILINSKA: So what if she seems to look like a Playboy model? AP

### Shameless cop

Then she went off to work at her new job at another bank, donned nice, sedate discussion top, a dress-fitting dress skirt and ran interior prosperous company.

Lewinsky isn't the first woman to take legal action over workplace dress requirements. But many such cases revolve around claims that the women were pushed to look more like a sex object—not less, as Lewinsky alleges.

Lewinsky's claim that she was demoted because she "looked hot" was told she was too attacking to wear turtlenecks or pencil skirts ordered the enforcement because "it just sounded to out of 'Mad Men' empire," said Brenda Wilson, a gender and sexuality studies professor at Indiana University, referring to the AMC television series that often puts on scantily-clad women.

It's no surprise that Jessica only in troubled after the revelation of Lewinsky's photo surgery, Weber said.

Lewinsky began working at a Citibank branch in September 2008 in a job she'd long said operating up men and women's accounts, according to her new consultant to the state's human rights division and a lawsuit she filed last fall.

### 'Too distracting'

Manager soon began berating her about her weight, wrote, saying she looked "too distracting" for her male colleagues to handle, her lawsuit said. When she pointed out that some coworkers wear more revealing clothes than she, a manager told her that "your body is very different from them" and that because she others "don't look so hot, it's fair for them to dress like that," her complaint said.

She complained repeatedly to Citibank's human resources officials and was transferred to another branch. After what she calls a deliberate campaign to keep her from meeting performance targets—including by giving her an out-of-the-way desk and even removing her name from the wall—she was fired in August, according to her complaint.

Citibank, part of beating giant Citigroup Inc., says that poor performance was the sole reason for her firing, and that the bank is confident it will prevail in the legal fights.

Lewinsky's lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages, is headed for arbitration. The human rights complaint will trigger a separate investigation that could ultimately spur a ruling from an administrative judge.

### Flash point for debate

The alternative newspaper The Village Voice first wrote about Lewinsky's lawsuit on June 1. Soon, button editors zeroed her work wardrobe. Bloggers devoted the others of because on the beholders and the holder.

Newspapers weighed in, some calling the case is finally proof for debate over workplace sexual harassment.

There the Daily News disclosed that Lewinsky—who had told the paper, "I can't help how I look"—had been featured in a 2003 Discovery Channel series called "Plastic Surgery Boobs Style" as she planned her breasts reduction implants. It's a size 32-DD.

"I know men have a fantasy of having a Playboy Playmate—that's what I want to be," she says on the show, saying that she had also had a rhinoplasty and liposuction. AP

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Hurricane churns toward Mexico, Texas

BROWNSVILLE—Hurricane Alex churned southeast through the Gulf of Mexico early Wednesday, far from oil spill cleanup efforts but on a collision course with Mexico and the southern Texas coastline. The National Hurricane Center in Miami upgraded the storm to a Category 1 hurricane—the least powerful type—shortly before 11 p.m. on Tuesday after measuring sustained winds of 129 kph. AP

### Turtle eggs to be whisked far from oil slick

PENSACOLA BEACH—An effort to save thousands of sea turtle hatchlings from dying in the oily Gulf of Mexico will begin in the coming weeks in a desperate attempt to keep an entire generation of threatened species from vanishing. The US Fish and Wildlife Service will coordinate the plan, which calls for collecting about 75,000 turtle eggs that are buried on beaches in the Gulf states, Florida Panhandle and Atlantic beaches. AP

### Church closes down 50th parish in Cleveland

CLEVELAND—Angry believers of the Cleveland diocese have watched helplessly as, one by one, 50 Ohio churches have been shuttered in the past year. On Wednesday, another Hungarian parish called St. Emeric's was to be the last, ending a massive downsizing of nearly 100 churches across the diocese by the diocese because of falling attendance, a priest shortage and financial problems. AP

### Fake degree scandal roils Pakistani politics

ISLAMABAD—Scores of Pakistani lawmakers may lose their seats for allegedly lying about their academic credentials, a growing scandal that adds to the woes of the US-backed leadership as it struggles with terrorist militancy and a stalled economy. What began as accusations against a handful of politicians has mushroomed into a widespread challenges against up to 150 elected officials—more than 10 percent of the country's federal and provincial legislators. Many are said to have claimed fake degrees to meet a previous requirement for holding office. AP

### Colombia paramilitary leaders sentenced

BOGOTA—A Colombian court on Tuesday handed down the longest term sentences to leaders of the illegal far-right militias that demobilized after a peace pact with the government, including government Edward Cobos, better known as "Diego Vecino," and Elmer Rampazzi, alias "Juancho Dique," each received the maximum of eight years in prison despite telling the Justice and Peace law center which they surrendered. They were also ordered to pay $300,000 each in restitution to relatives of their victims. By submitting to the Justice and Peace process and confessing to their crimes, the two were able to avoid the harsher sentences of 40 years each for crimes that included ordering massacres, kidnapping and driving people off their land. AP

### 27 Indian troops killed in Maoist ambush

PATNA—Up to 300 Maoist rebels ambushed paramilitary forces in eastern India, killing at least 27 in the latest bold attack by the guerrillas. A 80-member patrol of the Central Reserve Police Force was ambushed in dense forest Tuesday evening in the Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh state, said Sunder Raj, a senior local police official. AP

# South Korea parliament OKs chemical castration

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREAN PARLIAMENT on Tuesday voted to legalize chemical castration as punishment for convicted child sex offenders after a series of violent assaults sparked outrage nationwide.

The bill was first introduced in 2008 in response to a high-profile case in which a 55-year-old man raped and murdered an 8-year-old girl. The attack caused widespread revulsion and left the victim with lasting physical injuries.

Government policies, including the installation of more security personnel were school grounds as well as multiple surveillance cameras, have not prevented a series of similar cases.

A 32-year-old man who raped and murdered a 13-year-old girl in February was sentenced to 20 years in prison. In another high-profile case, a 40-year-old man allegedly kidnapped a student from her elementary school and raped her in the basement of a church.

South Korean legislators at the National Assembly passed the bill by a vote of 157-15. More than 140 lawmakers either did not make it to the vote or abstained.

The legislation, which requires the South Korean president's signature to become law, would allow judges to sentence adult sex offenders who commit serious assaults to and have been diagnosed to submit to chemical castration.

The procedure involves the administration of testosterone-suppressing hormones intended to curb sexual drive. Offenders would also receive behavioral and psychological therapy.

Dr. Howard Zonana, a professor of psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine, said questions remained on such treatment.

"It's hard to say with a degree of reasonable on the effectiveness of chemical castration," Zonana said.

For critics, the intervention to be effective, it must first be determined whether offenders are pedophiles, who have a strong attraction to children, or nonsexual deviants possessing other underlying psychiatric disorders that cause them to act violently, he added.

Rampant sex crime South Korea would be a rampant sex crime in Asia to legalize chemical castration, according to Eo Soheui, an aide to Park Young-sun, a member of the assembly's legislation and judiciary committee.

In the United States, several states including Louisiana, California, Oregon and Arizona have laws allowing chemical castration. In Europe, countries including Britain, Denmark and Sweden—offer chemical castration drugs to sex offenders to control sexual urges on a voluntary basis. Last year, Poland legalized the procedure for offenders who rape minors under age 15 or close relatives. It is administered on court orders. AP

# 90-year-old accused of rape

BANGKOK—A 90-YEAR-OLD AUSTRALIAN was arrested and charged with raping four young sisters whom he allegedly lured to his house in Thailand with imported cheese fries and English lessons, police said on Wednesday.

One girl was 5 when the alleged abuse began. The sisters are now 7 to 15.

Rod Joseph Rose was arrested on Tuesday at his home near the northern city of Chiang Mai, where police confiscated about 100 photographs of naked children, said Police police chief Kittipol Kunaporn.

Some photos showed the elderly man posing naked with other children, and police are trying to identify them and contact their families, Kittipol said. He said police were investigating if Rose was part of a pedophile network, noting many of the pictures were emailed overseas. AP

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 83, QUEZON CITY

IN RE PETITION FOR CORPORATE
[illegible]

STAY ORDER

[illegible]

# The WORLD

Editor Lamberto R. Gocco

# US gov't plays down fallout in spy case

WASHINGTON—THE SCANDAL OVER AN ALleged Russian spy ring erupted at an awkward time for a White House that has staked its foreign policy record on improved cooperation with Moscow, but it appeared unlikely to do lasting damage to US-Russian relations.

The administration sought to dampen tensions, while the Russian government offered the unlikely hope on Tuesday that US authorities would "show proper understanding, taking into account the positive character of the current stage of development of Russian-American relations."

The White House response was notably restrained following the dramatic announcement that 11 people assigned a decade or more to illegally infiltrate American society had been arrested. They are accused of using fake names and claims of US citizenship to become US society and lower-cost intelligence at Russian "illegals"—spies operating without diplomatic cover.

White House spokesperson Robert Gibbs labored to stress that the arrests were a law enforcement matter—one not driven by the president, even though President Barack Obama was informed—and played down any political consequences.

Obama was asked about the matter by reporters twice Tuesday. He declined to comment both times.

Gibbs said Obama was aware of the investigation before he met with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at the White House on Thursday although Gibbs said he did not know whether Obama knew then that the arrests were imminent.

The two leaders did not discuss the issue, Gibbs said. Another White House spokesperson, Tommy Vietor, said Obama did not know the exact timing of the arrests.

The FBI's arrests of 10 Russian spy suspects had to be carried out on Sunday partly because one of the 10 was scheduled to leave the United States, according to the justice department.

Officials in both countries left the impression that spy rings remain a common way of doing business.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin offered a message of reassurance during a meeting at his country residence with former US President Bill Clinton, who was in Moscow to speak at an investment conference.

"I understand that look home policy are posing people in prison," Putin said, drawing a laugh from Clinton. "That's their job. It's stunning on the fact that the positive trend seen in the relationship will not be harmed by these events."

The administration has made a high priority of improving relations with Russia.

RUSSIAN Prime Minister Vladimir Putin offers a message of reassurance on the spy scandal during a meeting at his country residence with former US President Bill Clinton. Right photo shows Anna Chapman, dubbed the femme fatale of the busted Russian spy ring.

At stake in the short term is a newly concluded nuclear arms control deal, dubbed New START, which requires a favorable vote in the US Senate and approval by the Russian legislature.

More broadly, Obama wants to build the foundation for a strategic partnership with Moscow—as in, strong security and economic and other cooperation with the former Cold War foe.

It was that longer-term goal that the state department emphasized in reacting to the spy case.

"We're sure we're going to forge the opportunity to pursue our common interests because there are things we disagreed on," Phil Crowley, the department's top Russia policy official, told reporters.

"I think you should see that spying issue in that context. We feel we have made significant progress in the 10 months that we have been pursuing this different relationship with Russia," Crowley added. "We think we have some things to show for it."

By coincidence, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is scheduled to visit the former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia in the coming days, as well as Poland. Each of those countries is keenly interested in the direction of US-Russian relations.

Signing has often produced problems on the face of US-Russian relations, even in the run decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The full dimensions of the latest case are yet to be made public, but the charges against the 11 suspects do run include espionage, and it was unclear what—if any—US government secrets they managed to collect or transmit to Moscow.

The suspects allegedly assumed fake names and sought to obtain insights to US government policy, looking in ways that could benefit Russia.

Simon Riedel, a former CIA officer and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank, said the spy ring was "classic KGB style" in which the Russian intelligence service would plant moles and "hope that they will produce something years and maybe even decades later."

AP

# Moscow admits suspected deep-cover spies include Russians

MOSCOW—SOME OF THE ELEVEN people arrested in the United States are Russian citizens, Russia's foreign ministry acknowledged, but it insisted they did nothing to hurt US interests.

The ministry statement on Tuesday said that Russia was sounding out the United States "to devise proper understanding, taking into account the positive character of the current stage of development of Russian-American relations."

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin delivered the same message during a meeting at his country residence with former President Bill Clinton, who was in Moscow to speak at an investment conference.

"I understand that look home policy are posing people in prison," Putin said, drawing a laugh from Clinton. "That's their job. It's stunning on the fact that the positive trend seen in the relationship will not be harmed by these events."

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AP

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BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Gov't eyes early July bid for sugar import rights /B6

# S. Cotabato bans 'open pit' mining

## Mines bureau, private firms hit LGU move

By Rica T. Dicleandro

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH Cotabato in the southern Philippines has passed an environmental code that bans open pit mining, drawing flak from parties whose projects may be consequently derailed.

Outgoing South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes told the Inquirer in a phone interview that she signed the controversial code to protect the welfare of her constituents and ensure the "sustainability" of their environment.

Fuentes is a lawyer who served as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 when she was representing the second district of South Cotabato in Congress.

Going for background, Fuentes said the area not only mining, but the ban could not be helped because open pit mining might pollute or dry up rivers essential to South Cotabato's largely agricultural economy. She added that mining companies and national government agencies consulted in the four-year making of the code were not forthcoming with technical information on mining projects.

► CONTINUED TO B2

ANENVIRONMENTAL code has been passed by South Cotabato to ban open pit mining.

## Business sector awaits 'third leg' of Aquino fiscal team

By Dexter L. Lucas
(Correction)

THE ABILITY OF ANY LEGISLATOR to serve the needs of its people depends, to a large degree, on the financial resources available to it mainly in the form of taxes.

In the Philippines, an average 80 percent of the state's revenues comes from the taxes collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, while the Bureau of Customs accounts for the remaining 20 percent.

SPECIAL REPORT

Both agencies—under the Department of Finance headed by Secretary Cesar Purisima—are widely perceived by the general public to be steeped in graft and corruption.

But while the level of graft in the BIR may be higher when measured in terms of actual pesos lost, the degree of corruption in the Customs bureau is, by all accounts, more brazen.

Because of this, the business community has rallied behind the nomination of Guillermo Parayno Jr. as the next customs commissioner. Despite the show of support from members of the influential Makati Business Club, Parayno's appointment—previously thought of as a "done deal" in several weeks—is now a big question mark as President Benigno Aquino III's cloud progresses.

Parayno's backers believe he is eminently qualified for the job of hunting down smugglers and plugging the country's porous tariff nets. They point to his credentials as a 1978 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and the Naval Warfare School, from which the country's Navy (Dalta) hail.

He is an intelligence officer by training and was part of the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau under the previous Aquino administration, before being tapped by President Ramos to head the customs bureau. More recently, he ran the BIR under the Arroyo administration before resigning in 2005 together with the so-called Hyatt 10.

Parayno also nurtured newly appointed BIR Commissioner Kim Henares, who had served as his deputy at the tax bureau. More importantly, however, he was tapped many times by the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank to serve as adviser and consultant on fiscal issues in other developing nations.

Despite these credentials, his appointment as customs chief is by no means certain, as critics have taken to the media to point out his supposed conflicts of interest, most be-

BUSINESSWORLD B3

## Peso seen rising to 45.50 to $1 in Q3

By Bernadette M. Domingo

THE PESO IS EXPECTED TO APPRECIATE to P45.50 to a dollar in the third quarter with strong support from remittances inflows, according to the investment banking unit of Barclays Bank.

In its latest commentary on the Philippines, Barclays Capital said the peso's prospects would also be supported by a sharp turnaround in the global electronics industry.

"On top of that are the expected strong foreign direct investment inflows as well as movement in hot money," the company said.

"We expect [the peso-dollar exchange rate] to shift toward 45.50 in three months, with our 12-month forecast being 44," it added.

Also, Barclays Capital said strong remittances inflows would ensure that the current account surplus—the balance of the inflow and outflow of goods, services and other funds—remains robust at $3.2 billion.

PESO B3

### INDICATORS

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**
June 29, 2010
**46.370**

**STOCK MARKET**
June 29, 2010
**8.81**
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Data from market report on Page B3

**Cautious trading seen**

LOCAL STOCKS ARE SEEN TRADING with caution when local financial markets reopen today as global asset families drawn out the euphoria over the resignation of ex-Philippine president.

Astro del Castillo, managing director of local fund management firm First Grade Holdings, said financial markets have already reacted favorably to an exuberant Aquino presidency but uncertainties in the overseas markets would likely temper investors' risk appetite.

While the local market has closed unchanged by the presidential inauguration, Dan Jacildo recalled that most Asian markets went down as dramatic data still pointed to weaknesses in the US economy.

On Tuesday, the closely watched Dow Jones industrial index was down 258.22 points or 2.6% percent as growth concerns triggered a global selloff.

Joseph Pisani, president of Apex Equities Inc., said the market would still be highly influenced by what would happen in Wall Street Wednesday night (Manila time). He noted that yesterday's inauguration would hold little sway to the market. **Dale C. Zander**

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# BDO takeover of Export Bank gets gov't approval

By David C. Dumlao

THE LONG-DELAYED takeover by Banco de Oro Unibank of Export and Industry Bank is finally expected to be consummated very soon after passing a tedious regulatory scrutiny, banking sources said.

BDO's takeover of the rather asset- and liabilities- of EIB—long pending on the table of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board and Philippine Deposit Insurance Co.—is likely to be approved by these institutions in the next few sessions.

The acquisition is expected to cement BDO's position as the country's largest bank in terms of assets, its biggest ambition in making this new acquisition as EIB's branches in both, of which 15 are in Eastern Visayas, in view of its existing nationwide approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilip-

## Deal to cement Sy firm's top ranking

pines in the opening of new branches.

The takeover has been delayed by debates among banking regulators over various "incentives" that BDO should get in acquiring EIB, and receive parity in the matter. In the end, however, the BSP and PDIC have mutually agreed to provide such incentives and allow the transaction to proceed.

Under the previously proposed framework, BDO will buy selected assets and assume about P66 billion in liabilities, including about P28 billion in deposits and about P5 billion in subordinated loans to PDIC.

SB shares are listed on the local stock exchange but trading had been voluntarily suspended as the bank entered various discussions with potential investors in 2003.

BDO, for its part, has grown substantially this decade through a series of mergers and acquisitions, buying one new bank almost every year. BDO took over Dao Heng Philippines in 2001, first e-Bank in 2002, Banco Santander Philippines in 2003, Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank in 2005, Citibank Philippines in 2008, Equitable PCI Bank in 2008, American Express Savings Bank in 2007 and GE Money Bank last year.

BDO says it is not profit this year being by about 24 percent to P6.3 billion, thanks to higher loan and trading earnings from new lending. The projected net profits for 2010, equivalent to a return on equity of about 12.43 percent, are targeted to be boosted by [illegible]

## PSE sells trading seat of OCBC

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has approved the sale of the long-dormant equities trading seat of OCBC Securities Philippines Inc. to a private local investor.

In a recent memorandum, the PSE said its board of directors has approved the sale of the trading seat to Andrew Chua Lim. The price tag for the trading right was not disclosed.

Lim is a private individual involved in the equities trading business.

OCBC Securities is an affiliate of Singapore-based OCBC Group, one of the biggest financial institutions in Asia. It was among the foreign stockbrokers that shut down operations in the Philippines during an exodus of foreign brokers after the 1997 financial crisis.

Recently, there has been an improved appetite among local investors to take over defunct PSE trading seats, especially with growing expectations that a bull market has started. Other applications to purchase such trading rights are pending with the PSE.

Daniel C. Dumlao

OSCAR M. Lopez (left), chair emeritus of First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC), and former Federico R. Lopez (right), chair/CEO of FPHC and subsidiary First Gen Corp., thank former US Vice President Al Gore during his recent visit to Manila. Gore showcased an updated version of "An Inconvenient Truth," his award-winning multimedia presentation on the threat of, and solutions to, climate change. First Gen, the country's leading clean and renewable energy company, reaffirmed its commitment to fight climate change by supporting Gore's visit.

## ATI has new buyer for Mariveles terminal

By Paolo G. Montecillo

UNITED PORT DEVELOPER ASIAN TERMINALS Inc. (ATI) for Ireland is now Japan's to the Mariveles Container Terminal on Bataan Bay, leasing the rolling through of the firm's previous agreement with diversifying conglomerate San Miguel Corp.

"It's a local company which may have some foreign investors," ATI president Jose Jesus Tanco said, but declined to identify the new investors. Mariveles Grain Corp. is the company holding the rights to operate the Bataan port until February 2035.

The decision to find another buyer comes on the heels of San Miguel's decision to drop plans to acquire the Subic-based ATI terminal, where it planned to build a brand new grains terminal to service the needs of its food and beverage units.

"There were just some conditions that ATI was concerned with," Tanco said.

ATI has not yet disclosed the price of the Mariveles Under Terminal, but analysts have put it at P1.6 billion.

The terminal can accommodate vessels of up to 70,000 deadweight tons, discharge cargo at up to 1,000 tons per hour, store 180,000 metric tons of soybean meal and grain, according to ATI's annual report.

San Miguel has since agreed to buy a majority stake in Manila North Harbour Port Inc. (MNHPI), the port operator between Navotas and Caloocan City's Tanza Port for general use, and local subsidiaries of Hong Kong-listed International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI).

San Miguel plans to buy the 35 percent in the remaining previously held by MNHPI, which has decided to sell out of the venture following its failure to acquire a majority stake.

Analysts believe the acquisition of San Miguel's food and beverage businesses, the Manila North Harbor provides the ideal location for a land-locked that will replace its facilities at the current inland production of depot.

San Miguel has also dropped Japan's Toyota Tsusho Corp. as a partner. The Japanese firm was its partner for the Mariveles acquisition.

## S. Cotabato bans 'open pit' mining

From page B1

"Our concern is a local government may seem small at the moment level, but we have to protect ourselves and our environment because the impact will not be felt immediately but sooner the future generations to come," Fuentes said.

He also stressed that while the national government has domain over the country's natural re-

## Peso ...

From page B1

The second represents 3 percent of gross domestic product—the total output of goods and services within the country—compared with P8.6 billion in 2 percent of GDP in 2009.

In the 10 months to April, remittances reached P5.65 billion, increasing by 6 percent over the year.

"The strength in dollar, most [of Filipinos abroad], which was up 11 percent in 2009, we continue to expect remittances to rise by 10 percent in 2010 to $17.2 billion," Barclays Capital said.

"This will support household consumer spending, the main lead- ...ector of the economy," it said.

But Asian Capital added that it expected GDP to expand 6 percent in 2010, which is the higher end of the government's agreeably around because of between 5 percent and 6 percent.

## Business sector ...

From page B1

ness tax from which industry pro- ...vide IT services to the BOC.

According to people familiar with President Aquino's selection process, the campaign against Fuentes—along with the opposition's lobbying to other regions—caused the Chief Executive to defer announcing his choice for agencies chief.

To date, two heads of Presidential ...spirito's Kusi team—Secretary Ramon ... Undersecretary Romero—have been warmly received by the international community, especially holders of the country's bonds. The value of which is also largely on the level of tax collections.

Meanwhile, the local business community—the sector which suffers most the ill effects of rampant smuggling—waits with bated breath for the unsung of the date's legend the first Executive.

The identity and effectiveness of the appointee may very well decide whether or not the Aquino administration's fiscal program gains credibility and ultimately success.

"Our option is to see if our new Sanggunian, Pendatunan is ...ilwided Board] can quickly consolidate for updating the ban. For example, in watersheds and other ...ensitive areas related to our coastal law," he said.

"Separately, the private parties who will be affected can take legal remedies. They can challenge the constitutionality of the ... order with ...

Sagittarius Mines Inc., whose P5.2-billion Tampakan copper-gold project may be derailed by the ban, said in a statement that it remained "concerned" regarding the order's potential impact and would "consider [other] available options."

From page B1

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

# Local trade rose 10.4% to P93.7B in Q1, NSO says

By Raoul W. Dominguez

THE VALUE OF GOODS TRADED within the country in the first quarter increased by 10.4 percent to reach a total of P93.71 billion from P84.86 billion due to stronger-than-expected economic growth, the National Statistics Office said.

Also, the volume of shipments from January to March went up by 26.2 percent to 4.26 million tons from the 3.38 million recorded in the same quarter of 2009.

Mid-data on the flow of merchandise between the country's regions—covering cargoes that moved via water, air and rail transport systems—are used in the formulation and implementation of various regional development programs, like countryside development and port planning.

In the first quarter this year, where domestic output grew by 7.3 percent, 99.8 percent of the value of goods were hauled by water transport.

In terms of volume, commodities moved by vessels accounted for 99.3 percent of the total.

Of all goods traded within the three-month period, food and live animals contributed the largest value at P27.97 billion or 29.9 percent of total.

Other top traded goods were machinery and transport equipment, with a share of 21.6 percent or P20.18 billion; mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, 17.9 percent or P16.79 billion; and animal and vegetable oils, 1.8 percent or P1.66 billion.

Above 14 percent of the goods traded in the first quarter came from the National Capital Region (NCR), valued at P13.5 billion.

Other top exporters to other regions were Western Visayas, with P13.15 billion (14 percent); Central Visayas, P12.63 billion (13.5 percent); Central Luzon, P12.51 billion (13.3 percent); and Northern Mindanao, P13.16 billion (12.4 percent).

Cagayan Valley continued to ship out the least amount with P168.08 worth of goods.

Further, Central Luzon remained the region with the most favorable trade balance during the period, posting a surplus of P12.13 billion.

## *WB approves $4.97-M grant for climate change project*

THE WORLD BANK HAS EXTENDED a $4.97-million grant for a pilot project designed to help selected rural communities cope with the devastating effects of climate change.

"The primary beneficiaries of this grant include poor farmers in the uplands—those who live in forests," said Bart Dahiana, the WB's country director in the Philippines.

Dahiana added that the project would also benefit other vulnerable groups that depend on natural resources for their livelihood.

Called the climate change adaptation project (CCAP), the initiative is aimed at developing and demonstrating cost-effective strategies to manage agriculture and natural resources given climate change.

According to the WB, the Philippines is one of the countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change risks "including typhoons, floods, landslides and droughts."

The worst weather disturbances to unravel were tropical storms "Ondoy" and typhoon "Pepeng"—which hit the country within a week's time—that caused hundreds of deaths, disrupted the lives of an estimated seven million people and damaged crops and infrastructure.

Also, the Philippines is periodically affected by the El Niño weather phenomenon, which, during severe cases, cuts off water supply for agriculture since the area is available to need or homes and industries.

Other benefits from the project include enhancing access to information on weather forecasting and climate protection and improving access to risk management options, such as weather index insurance.

Posed by the CCAP grant will come from the Global Environmental Facility Trust Fund, which the WB is implementing.

Support will also come from two other WB-financed projects—$40.45-million is co-financing from the participatory irrigation development project and another $20 million from the environment and natural resources management project.

The CCAP "is consistent with the government's priorities with respect to poverty reduction and sustainable development, particularly given that the poorest segments of the Philippine population depend on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihood," Dahiana said. *Raoul W. Dominguez*

## TVIRD pays back $30.1-M term loan

By Abigail L. Ho

TVI RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT Philippines Inc. (TVIRD), the local affiliate of Canadian mining firm TVI Pacific Inc., has completely repaid its $30.1-million term loan.

In a statement posted on the company's official website, TVIRD said the final loan payment of $1.97 million, which represented the principal balance, was made last June 24.

The total payment, however, amounted to $4.58 million, as it included accrued interest, advisory fees and a premium for the right to make the prepayment.

With the loan out of the way, TVIRD chair Clifford Anders said the company would concentrate on its growth strategy.

"Our primary focus is to extend the mine life at Canatuan. In addition to this, we are accelerating the program on our flagship gold project and advancing our exploration endeavors at Tamarack," said Anders.

TVIRD had formed a joint venture with 2095 Cor Inc., an affiliate of DMCI company Dacon Corp., to explore, develop and produce mineral deposits from the Greater Canatuan Tenement in Zamboanga del Norte.

## SEAir suspends flights

By Paola G. Manosalla

LEISURE CARRIER SOUTH EAST Asian Airlines (SEAir) has halted flights to select destinations after a government order to improve the safety specifications on many its aircraft resulted in the partial grounding of the company's fleet.

In a statement sent late last Tuesday, SEAir said it would suspend flights to routes serviced by its 19-seater Czech-made LET-410 starting June 30.

Affected destinations are El Nido, Itbu Fernando, Lt Union, Marinduque, Zamboanga, Tuguegarao and Jolo.

This is to comply with a Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) directive covering all LET-410s requiring the upgrade of the Philippines, calling for 19 cabin and aircraft systems safety modifications.

SEAir's fleet is made up of six LET-410s and four Dornier 328s.

The LET-410 is a twin engine, 19-to-seater propeller aircraft manufactured by the Czech aircraft manufacturer, LET. These planes are mostly used for passenger transport.

The LET-410 and the Dornier 328, the two kinds of aircraft being used by SEAir, are capable of landing and taking off in ramp areas up to as short as 750 meters.

"These aircraft are the most appropriate for the small airports of Cubi Int., Palawan, and other destinations where bigger commercial planes cannot land," the company said.

There are 14 LET-410 and four LET-410 operators in the country. With more than 1,300 produced and used worldwide, the LET-410 is one of the most popular 19-seater planes.

SEAir emphasized that flights to Catarlan, Surigao, Tablas, Romblon, Cuyo and Cebu continue. SEAir has at least seven flights a day to Catarlan, which is the gateway to tourist destination, Boracay Island.

Meanwhile, the company said it would bring in additional 32-seater Dornier 328s starting August to beef up operations in the growing markets of Batanes, Catarlan and Romblon.

In May, the CAAP grounded one of SEAir's Dornier 328 aircraft following another-two-flat parts-in-one-plane's safety record.

## Utilities set up meter shops

By Aris R. Roxas

THE ENERGY REGULATORY Commission has allowed 67 distribution utilities to set up meter shops that will monitor the accuracy of household electric meters.

According to the commission, the meter shops will be responsible for the various testing, repair and calibration of electric meters, sanitary devices and other equipment essential to the metering of electric power and energy.

Under the law, all distribution utilities are mandated to establish meter testing facilities and set up a meter shop, unless exempted by the ERC.

"These rules and procedures involve delegated and cost-efficient measures deemed to protect the consumers from inaccurate (and) erroneous billings. There are more than 8 million residential electric meters in the country," said ERC chair Emmylou S. Cruz-Torres.

"Innovations and scientific technical monitoring systems have provided ways of ensuring that electric meters are accurate through systematic testing and maintenance and regular monitoring checks," Torres added.

The ERC distribution utilities have been issued a "Certificate of Authority to maintain a Meter Shop," which is valid for three years and may be renewed.

The ERC earlier promulgated the rules and procedures that will guide these utilities in the testing and maintenance of electric meters to ensure the highest level of confidence of the consumers in the accuracy of the ERC billing meters.

"The ERC shall audit once every six months the meter shops to ensure the integrity of the seals and the accuracy of the meters," Torres said.

"The ERC shall conduct audits once every two years to accredited meter shops," she added.

The Philippines has 140 distribution utilities - 120 rural electric cooperatives and 20 private utilities.

# People, Events & Products

E-mail: e_mail@inquirer.net.ph
www.facebook.com/inquirer.net

Lilian Arvin Espinosa

# DDB Group Agency is Philippines' Most Creative Shop

DAN-ho MEETS HOSE TO THE TOP OF creative rankings as Campaign Brief Asia's Philippine Agency of the Year for 2016, beating BBDO, TBWA, and Saatchi & Saatchi. Campaign Brief NOT the usually creative ranking of advertising agencies based on awards won in international and regional shows.

DMN-JayneHOU success is part of a roadmap set by the DDB Group of Companies in 2008 when changes were made in the organizational management. These changes catered to positioning the DDB Group Asia network as the country's most visible marketing communications agencies for 15 years to a dynamic player in creativity and effectiveness. Since the reorganization, the DDB Group earned recognitions from local and international award-giving bodies such as the ANIE Awards, Effie, Spikes, Eurobest, SMC Awards, New York Shot, ANIE Best, Clio, and Cannes, as well as garnered honors in Ad's Agency of the Year from its Media Performance for SMART and McDonald's. Q1'08 Philippines's Agency Grand Brownstring Award from DDB/PP Global DDB, and recognition at the Media Thinking Awards in Singapore (Touch DDB).

Established in 2005, DMN-JayneHOU was issued a bold challenge by group president and CEO Gil Chua in the wake of the 2008 changes: become the country's number one creative agency. The small group of only 20 employees pulled it off in just two years.

Marlon Aurrac, chair and chief creative officer of DMN-JayneHOU, admits that the key is not necessarily in the right-or-the-left-brain. The key is purposefully in people. "Our company's value chain puts people first. Just a handful of talented people, of managed effectively and molded to an environment that challenges, motivates, and encourages collaboration, will come up with brilliant work. The awards and the results, those are the by-products of that." Indeed, through the teamwork of its talents, the agency rose to the challenge of breaking into the creative ranks, while moving the company to financial soundness.

With an 80% under-in-luck DMN-JayneHOU is showing no signs of slowing down. Asked what's on the horizon for the agency, Aurrac only had this to say: "[We've been] asked never to lose sight of our vision for DMN: a small, agency doing big things. The rest will follow."

Gil Chua notes: "This latest triumph of the DDB Group marks the end of our years-up stage. Our agencies are now geared up to be the most influential group in the market.

**CISCO, GREENFIELD COLLABORATION**

Cisco and Greenfield Development Corp will collaborate on building connected communities by integrating smart building and information technologies within their Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) two Jeffrey Cenpoo, Greenfield chair; and Bonnie Soriano, Greenfield general manager and executive vice president.

## Big business in clean water

PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN drinking water straight from their faucet without running it through filters.

That's because tap water is treated with chlorine, which is here (seven feet) and pneumatic problems safely long term use, according to Gilly Tabing, founder of the family-owned Electrowater, a company that manufactures and builds water and air treatment.

Operation of water is different from purifying or distilling. With purifying, water becomes safer and cancer cells built of the water being treated is removed, while distilling removes impurities to the water that makes it so good to "drink."

The ionization process, on the other hand, has proven to eliminate harmful air and water-borne bacteria.

"We are if you bought a bottled water," said Tabing. "The water produced through this treatment is absolutely safe and fit for human consumption."

It is interesting to note that Electrowater started out as a television company. But when people saw its water machines, they wanted to have an income-generating activity on the side.

For such efficiency and affordability of production, the company gets likely ionized purified water device to the world-famous Kuwait Fountain.

What's more, this chlorine treatment is revenue-packed. Tabing, a husband during the financial crisis, a couple of years ago became people were looking for a business that can address their income."

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## ProductFILES

### Sturdy and stylish school gear with High Sierra

HIGH SIERRA, THE innovator of the all-American backpack design, takes you to the great outdoors and safari adventure. High Sierra is definitely most perfect school companions as it offers bags that let you stand in style and confidence on campus. It has a wide array of storage compartments that can fit your lifestyle, whatever this school calls for. Its durable fabrics are also in styles with bright tones, the bags company that continues to innovate the humble school companion by introducing exciting features and functional add-ons. High Sierra is available at all Team Click outlets, R.S.C., UM Drugstores, Shoemart, Landmark, Metro Watch Gallerias and at the Patron Chevron Store.

### New Pepsico Instant Mami Chicken with Corn and Malunggay

UNIVERSAL FOODS Corp. (UNC) announces Pepsico the need of mothers to serve a delicious, nutritious, affordable and convenient meal to guarantee that their kids enjoy good health and proper nutrition this school year with Payless Instant Mami Chicken with Corn and Malunggay. This ready-to-eat treat has the healthy goodness of corn, a good source of fiber and carbohydrates that aids in kids' proper digestion and provides adequate energy for their body. It also contains the health benefits of malunggay that is packed with its vitamins and minerals that are especially good for kids. This delectable and vitamin-packed instant noodles is priced at P15.75. A whopping 25 percent lighter than the regular variant, this affordable but healthy add-on to dishes, inspires kids and grocery stores nationwide.

### LIFEDATA SYSTEMS SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH PMA

Lifedata Systems Inc. and Philippine Medical Association (PMA) convention held recently at the Subic Bay International Hotel.

Emerging in a Hotel. The company hosted by Mario Ernesto Rodriguez, president and CEO and Dr. Christian Bolon, medical director, signed a memorandum of agreement with the PMA. Rosencon Jonas and Dr. Jose Ramon Cordero, chair of the 103rd PMA Convention and national convener of PMA. Dr. Oscar Tinio, chair, committee on computerization and newly-elected president of PMA. Dr. Ray Mendoza Sandoy, immediate past president of PMA; Maria Lorena Gracia Rosendo, president and CEO of Lifedata Systems Inc. and Dr. Ernesto Bernardo, secretary-general of PMA. Details to Edith Cabral, authorized to confer-based electronic medical records system for doctors, patients, healthcare institutions and services provided developed by Filipinos for Filipino readers. Its direct practice. To get the software free, logon and register for services online at or call (632) 478-3729.

### MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY WORLD AT SMX

The industry's biggest players are coming together under one roof for Manufacturing Technology World on 5 to 8 at the SMX Convention Center. Encompassing more than 40,000 square feet of exhibition space, the show will be host to exciting events and cutting-through seminars and demos. Winner another VIPs from last year's upcoming ceremony of Manufacturing Technology World Show with: Head of the exhibition Mr. Ernesto C. Co, Philippine Center for Plant Excellence presenter Steven Tan, Global CEO Patrick Lawrence Tan, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCI) president Mr. Alfonso K. Ue, Philippine Plastics Industry Association Inc. (PPIA) president Alfonso G. Yu, Packaging Institute of the Philippines president Antonio Tan, Association of Industrial Technology in Singapore Yvonne Wong, and Global Link CEO Jing Lagundaro. For more information about the show, please contact Global Link MP Events International at Tel. (632) 756-8088 or visit www.globallinkexpo.com.

### ADOBTE COMPANIES GET HIGH MARKS IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Manila Equity Ventures Inc (AEV) and eight other publicly listed subsidiaries, Manila Power Corp (MAEC), Pure Foods Tasteland Systems Corp (AEV), and Beverages of the Philippines Corporation (Universal), all ranked in the top 50 out of 214 companies ranked by the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) for its 2016 Corporate Governance Scorecard for listed companies. The two companies are very ranked in the other category for scoring between 90 percent and 94 percent. ICD chair Jesus Estanislao said: "Listed companies' active pursuit of transparency and effective governance practices will reward investors. Business Mirador (2nd from right), AEV chief executive officer Sebastian Lacson receiving from Manila Power's AEV senior vice president CFO Liliosa Lustan, and Alexandra Alan and ICD Sandy Ocampo at the PICE 17th Annual Business held recently at the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

## Get a laptop to go via NBS' School Rush Promo

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING BOOKS AND SUPPLIES CHAIN, NATIONAL Book Store, teams up with Smart Bro for the exciting School Rush Laptop Bonanza Raffle Promo, where 30 lucky shoppers get the chance to bring home a Battlegroom Mini VIII laptop each. Joining in easy. Just buy a Smart Bro Plug-It kit at select National Book Store and NBS Book Express branches from May 30 to July 4. Activate your Smart Bro Plug-It unit and register to ZERO to enter the study raffle. Raffle draws will be held weekly from June 10 to July 7, and winners will be notified through registered mail and a call from a Smart Bro representative via access number 7777. See them for full details. Follow NBS on Facebook and Twitter for exclusive offers and contests.

## Ling Nam: the name for authentic Cantonese cuisine

AN AN LING MAI FIRST OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC IN 1998, they chose a name that perfectly symbolizes both Cantonese cuisine and their dining philosophy. In Cantonese, the name Ling Nam is derived from two words - Ling which means "mountain", and Nam, which means "south". Taken together, Ling Nam refers to "the southern part of the mountain range" which coincides to Guangdong province, home to the famous Cantonese cuisine. Over half a century later, today, the bright red colors of the Ling Nam brand answers both new and loyal customers of flavors that is true to the Cantonese taste as it expands to many fans. The original signature dishes like beef sambal noodles, dragon gyoza, pork with spicy and sour soup (commonly known as kilo-kilo) dish the crowds who can't get enough of these home-grown Chinese comfort food. Next to bring that Cantonese goodness closer to the public, Ling Nam has opened opportunities for franchising. For details and franchise inquiries, please call Ms. Mark Fonte Inc Ling Nam at (02)376-8113 or visit www.lingnam.net.

## Apsa holds one day seminar-workshop

THE ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND ASSESSMENT CORP (APSA) will be holding a one day seminar-workshop on "Making Standards Work and Effective Use and Application of Understanding by Design (UBD) for Quality Education on July 23, at the City De Luxe Restaurant, Tabora District, Dagupan City. This seminar-workshop is designed to provide rationale and step by step real guidance for creating classroom assessments that accurately measure what students should know and be able to do. For details, contact Teng Bautista-Pady at 527-1651, 525-7371 or e-mail apsa129@yahoo.com.

## Anwaldi's financial literacy program is timely

GOVERNOR AMANDO DE TAMBUCO JR. OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas (BSP) said that the 54th anniversary theme of the Ala Mabohol Wing Sandoval and Lutes Association Inc. (Anwaldi) is very timely. Headed by Retired PAF Col. Florante L. Antipuesto, Jr. as chairman and president, the Anwaldi is the country's second biggest savings and loan association with a total resources of more than P3 billion and 250,000 members who are being served by the association's 48 branches and regional offices which are strategically located nationwide. Lutes message. Tabungan emphasized that: "We have to use our Anwaldi's vision as the top our shared visions of providing an equal chance for all Filipinos to gain access to the empowering effects of financial education." Antipuesto said that the Anwaldi's thrift and financial literacy program continuously is in support of one of the advocacies of the BSP. Despite financial literacy and consumer protection. BSP's other advocacies are non-interference, anti-money laundering, economic intelligence, and promote Filipino avoid as a healthy environment.

## Circuit Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses

ON JULY 3 AND 4, JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ONCE AGAIN GATHER FOR a two-day Circuit Assembly themed "Safeguard Your Spiritual Life—Read it and Apply It" (1 Tim. 4:15, 16). The assembly features carefully prepared talks that will show how we can resist and flee from ungodly practices that lead to spiritual death. Worse, you are cordially invited to those to the Metro Manila Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses at 1149 Katipunan Ave., Quezon City on the said dates. Program sessions start at 8:30 a.m. Admission is free, and there is no collection.

## 2nd International Outsourcing Summit

INDUSTRY EXPERTS WILL CONVENE IN MANILA ONCE AGAIN FOR the 2nd International Outsourcing Summit on July 26 to 28 at the Philippine Plaza Manila.

Pioneering Association of the Philippines. The conference will be held Oct. 26-27 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza. More than 40 experts from five continents are now represented among confirmed attendees, and at least 600 delegates are expected to join discussions with world-renowned industry leaders and experts. Topics range from the next decade of outsourcing, emerging outsourcing locations, business development, talent management, telecommunications, and new technology.

## Probe partners with Kodak for MDG Warriors Search

PROBE MEDIA FOUNDATION INC. RECENTLY JOINED up with Kodak Philippines as co-presenter of their Search for Philippines' Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Warriors.

A portion of the UN Millennium Campaign, Probe Media Foundation recently launched the search as its contribution to the 2016 Special Lattice Year and Year of the Rights Campaign to achieve the MDGs in the Philippines. The Search for Philippines' MDG Warriors is a two-part competition. The first part aims to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions in their own community towards achieving the MDGs. The guidelines and nomination form for the search can be downloaded at www.probe21.com. Nominations will be accepted until July 15. The second part is intended to showcase the MDG Warriors' stories through world-class documentaries made by college students. For more information on the search and sponsorship opportunities, contact: mdgwarriors@probe.com.

## First Hong Kong Dragon Boat Carnival

THE HOTEL ICON'S "EXCITED BRAND AND ITS SUMMER SPECTACULAR events are already taking place, incorporated into the biggest event on the festive Hong Kong 2016's calendar. The very first Hong Kong Dragon Boat Carnival will take place on July 23 to 25 with 120 local and international teams competing for different categories of the festive race. This three-day celebration will take place on East Tsim Sha Tsui on the Victoria side of Hong Kong Island. Tsim Sha Tsui and the Victoria side of Hong Kong Island are Victoria Harbour, and will feature live entertainment and performances, with Tsim Sha Tsui Dragon Boat Garden food chalk available for spectators to experience and enjoy. Aside from this extravagant festival highlights, HKTB is also inviting tourists to experience a range of summer events and activities.

## Re-staging of Dulaang UP's Orosman at Zafira

PANDESAL MUSICAL'S ORIGINAL BROADWAY ZARINA WILL ONCE AGAIN MESmerize once as it opens on Dulaang UP's Essential Theatre season on the company's 39th year. It features the rivalry for power in the kingdom of Bosnia between Sultan Orosman, and Ibrahim, Arnold Reyes scoring hits as Orosman and Zafira first love. Small role then drug. It's to 26 at the Abbreviate. Summer Theater. UP Ubiquitous from Wednesdays to Fridays at 7 p.m. and during matinees at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. For tickets, contact Cherry at 9241-7100 ext. , or the Dulaang UP Office at 929-1300, 981-8500 local 2438 or 2321-1560.

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## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **FILMICS VISION CORPORATION** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) on Expanding Producer of Animal Feed with a production capacity of 110,000 MTPY under Book 1 of E.O. 226 on a Mass Preneer Status with project site located at Kiwalan Done, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) DOMINGO I. SINGAPORO
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department
(FPI – July 1, 2010)

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## Demolition Contractors

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*In Loving Memory*
*on the*
*Second Death Anniversary*
*of*

## Capt. DEMOSTHENES V. CAÑETE

*who passed away on July 2, 2008*

*"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even when he dies, and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."*
John 11:25-26

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*In Loving Memory*
First Death Anniversary

## Ma. Luisa P. Angara-Lao

August 20, 1954 – July 1, 2009

Holy Masses will be offered today, July 1, 2010 at the following churches:

| | |
|---|---|
| Our Lady of the Assumption Assumption College, Makati | 6:30 a.m. |
| Parish of the Holy Sacrifice UP Diliman, Quezon City | 6:00 a.m.<br>12:00 nn<br>6:00 p.m. |
| Presentation of the Child Jesus BF Homes, Phase 5, Parañaque City | 6:45 a.m.<br>7:00 p.m. |
| Resurrection of Our Lord Parish BF Homes, Phase 1, Parañaque City | 6:15 a.m.<br>6:30 p.m. |

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

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*"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." Psalm 23:4*

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**"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."**
John 11:25

# BUSINESS

## High court urged to approve special rules for IPR cases

By Abigail L. Ho

THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY Office is asking the Supreme Court to approve special rules that will expedite the prosecution of intellectual property rights violators.

The move is required to boost the entry of investments into the country.

IP Philippines director general Ricardo Blancaflor said the draft rules were seen with Chief Justice Renato Corona after being passed to all justices of the high tribunal by the executive committee.

"We're very optimistic that it will be scheduled to be taken up by the en banc soon. We believe they will proclaim this," he said in a telephone interview.

The Special Rules on IPR litigation, drafted and submitted to then Chief Justice Reynato Puno late last year, were supposed to be approved by the en banc before Puno's retirement last May.

Blancaflor said Bls-did not happen because the comments and clarifications made by the other justices had to be considered.

"We don't know yet what those comments and clarifications are, but if necessary, I think we will be called to make further explanations," he said.

In line with the Special Rules for IPR, he had earlier sought the assignment of a panel of full-time prosecutors who would devote their time to IP violation cases, in an effort to curb the still rampant cases of piracy in the country.

He said enforcement was IP Philippines' "weakest point" as it did not have its own operating unit to enforce IP laws. IP Philippines relied on agencies such as the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police for enforcement.

Under the proposed special rules, selected commercial courts in the National Capital Region — including those in Makati, Manila, Quezon City, Pasig, and Muntinlupa — would be designated as Special IP Courts with national jurisdiction.

Boosting the volume of IP cases filed in these courts should help develop the judges' expertise in IP cases, he said in their favor, Blancaflor said.

Instead of going through all the motions and procedures associated with regular cases, the proposed special rules sought to do away with certain aspects of the general rules of procedure that were irrelevant or inapplicable to IP cases.

# Gov't eyes early July bid for sugar import rights

### Stocks need to be delivered by end of this month

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE GOVERNMENT IS EXpected to import as much as 150,000 tons of sugar tariff-free, according to an official of the Department of Agriculture.

SRA Administrator Bernardo Ponce told the Inquirer that the sugar industry was willing to grant the tax subsidy needed to make the importation possible.

The private sector will be asked to bid for rights to import the required volume.

The tender may be held "not later than the end of next week" to give importers time to arrange for supply. The imported sugar must be delivered by the end of August this year to before the next crop cycle for sugarcane begins, the official said.

According to Ponce, the importation should keep sugar prices stable for the rest of 2010. The 150,000 tons will be imported on top of a recently completed program for a similar amount which is due for delivery by July 31.

Originally, he said, the second wave of sugar imports was to be 100,000 tons. However, the new subsidy application included a buffer of 50,000 tons so the private sector "might as well be allowed to bring in the extra amount."

"We don't need the entire 50,000 tons but if September rolling off from August gets delayed for whatever reason, perhaps due to the effect of bad weather on sugarcane crops, we would use the extra volume," he said.

The Philippines was a net exporter for eight years until early this year when it turned to imports as dry spells resulted in lower sugarcane production amid an already tight world market.

Industry estimates on sugar production for this crop year 2009-2010 is dropped.

Initial estimates showed sugar production would reach 2.18 million tons. However, because of the drought, actual production may only be 1.87 million tons and milling may be delayed due to shortened season.

Compounding the situation is a 23-percent increase in consumption from last year, which was indicated by the amount of withdrawals of both sugar from mills.

The Philippine Sugar Millers Association (PHSMA), the industry group that works closely with the SRA, said it was not certain yet whether the 150,000 tons would be two or refined sugar.

Both the SRA and PHSMA maintained that sugar prices should remain stable as more imports boost local warehouse stocks before the two months of August and September.

In the meantime, sugar mills still have more than 600,000 metric tons of the sweetener to warehouses and these included the tariff-free imports of refiners of refined sugar.

The Philippines resorted to importation again for the first time in eight years of being a net exporter to cope with a host of challenges: shift of sugarcane farmers to other crops in response to depressed prices last year; lower harvest production due to the El Niño drought; and the country's commitment to help the United States cope with a tight sugar supply situation by shipping an additional 16,000 tons of raw sugar to that market.

IN HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN, President Benigno Aquino III said he would close sugar taxes.

He also told cartoon business groups that he would not even raise the rates of existing taxes.

Upon his assumption to power yesterday, he was already facing a monstrous budget deficit, now estimated at P340 billion for 2009.

The projected deficit will rise from the Napoleon's to be deficit of P500 billion in 2009.

What I am saying is that B-nanses will certainly be the biggest headaches of this administration.

Despite Aquino's pronouncement against new taxes and tax rate increases, therefore, business groups are readying themselves for some tax measures.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) will submit to Aquino soon the business sector's version of "100-day Economic Agenda."

Part of the agenda, for instance, is the reimposition support of Sara Miguel Corp. for an increase in the rate of "sin taxes" — taxes levied on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, and tobacco products.

What the new increase will be, of course, is still up to the Department of Finance.

Still, to avoid imposing new tax measures, President Aquino must either cut government spending drastically or just bring this country some more in debt.

Either way, it will not be good for the administration of one of the most popular pre-election political figures in this country.

## Tax me in the morning

BREAKTIME

CONSTANCIO E. BATOSAY JR.

Based on his statements in some business forum, Aquino would only try to increase revenue collection by cracking on evasion and smuggling.

The business sector certainly cheered him on that statement, but such measures should take time to materialize.

What can build confidence in the business sector may be Aquino's picks for the Department of Finance, the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Going around business town are the names of people most likely to take up these positions. They are reputed to be clean and honest.

* * *

The new energy secretary is Rene Almendras, a former executive of the Ayala group, who was the president of Manila Mining Co., an offshoot of the privatization of the mine distribution system in the metropolis.

Respectacled, born and raised in Cebu, Almendras was a classmate of Aquino's in the university.

The former corporate executive also has made experience in banking, having worked for Citibank, Oriental, and BPI. He was also once the CEO of City Savings Bank of Ayala group. In the Ayala group, he handled mainly real estate companies.

Closely, throughout his professional life, he was never involved in the supply side of the energy business.

Some, together with the pressing budget deficit, which will tend to push up interest rates, at the top of the list of priorities of businesses to the end of power.

Despite the gloaming of the boys of this side administration about the Lola's economic performance, one power sales executive the second highest in the whole of Asia, next only to those in Japan.

It is happy that, when he was still a legislator, Aquino campaigned on congressional inquiry into the Energy Regulatory Commission, or the ERC, particularly how it decided on power rate increases sought by electric companies.

Almendras, obviously, at least to the most influential power groups in this country, is another key figure in the new economic team.

* * *

Paul Aquino, vice chair of the privatized Energy Development Corp., went to:

"How can you be unreluctant?

That company, Energy Development Corp., is a 110-percent private enterprise since November 2007.

"So do you still want me to resign?"

Aquino was reacting to our comment on May 20, in which we pointed out that when president-in-waiting Noynoy was reverse to appointing his relatives to government positions. He said he already had relatives appointed in various positions in the state administration of Gloria's. Will they resign?

Among those relatives I mean, that was Paul Aquino, who is the cousin of Noynoy Aquino.

Paul Aquino was correct in saying that EDC is already a private company.

In fact, Paul Aquino got his appointment from the Lolo at the Palace way back in 2005 as a board member of PHIVOLCS, a government corporation that operated has geothermal plants.

He assumed the position of president and CEO of the government corporation in 2004, in place of Bergelo Agustin, who chose to run for public office in the controversial 2004 national elections, the one that brought about the "Hello Garci" scandal, which subsequently resulted in a mass resignation of Cabinet secretaries.

In 2007, amid still opposition from lawmakers such as Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, the Department of Finance sold the government's entire interest in PHIVOLCS, in a bidding won by the largest group-led consortium called Red Nelson.

The Lopez group retained Paul Aquino, who is now vice chair of the renamed EDC.

According to a former board member of the PHIVOLCS, Paul Aquino should be credited for the privatization of the government corporation under that control, and not Lolo.

The board members said that with Paul Aquino as CEO, the corporation actually turned around, posting good revenues, making it attractive to the prospective buyers.

## Kepco in talks with SMC for Ilijan expansion

By Jerry R. Rosco

KOREA ELECTRIC POWER CORP. is in talks with diversifying conglomerate San Miguel Corp. for its plan to expand the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Ilijan natural gas facility in Batangas, by another 500 MW.

"We are coordinating and planning with the new independent power producer administrator (IPA), which is San Miguel," said Kepco Philippines president and chief executive Bob Stoll Lee.

Lee also told the business that San Miguel, through energy arm San Miguel Energy Corp. (SMEC), took over the management of the government's contracted capacity in Ilijan on June 26.

In April, SMEC submitted the highest bid of $679 million for the IPA, contract of the Ilijan gas facility in an auction held by Aseer Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. The management of the contracted capacity was turned over by the government to SMEC, upon its first monthly payment.

Kepco, however, will remain the co-operator of the Ilijan facility and the Puerto Princesa City diesel power plant still expire in 2022. The facility, which was completed in 2002, draws natural gas from Shell Exploration BV's Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project. It also has a take-or-pay contract with its gas suppliers.

According to Lee, the company is still working on securing the supply of natural gas for the planned expansion in capacity.

"We want to tap the over 300 bcf of natural gas from Malampaya," Lee said.

Since last year, Kepco and other interested parties have been eyeing the 300 MW in excess capacity from the Malampaya project. The other companies are Quezon Philippines' PSEC-Exploration Corp., Singapore-based Cultraid to LCMC Pinoy Corp. and the Lopez-led First Gen Corp.

The bidding for the capacity was held in 2009 and the awarding of the deal was expected early this year. The bidding, however, had failed, according to Lee.

Lee said that should Shell Philippines Exploration BV—operator of the Malampaya field—build another bidding, Kepco would likely bid for the excess capacity.

With an estimated capacity to power up to 3,000 MW within a 25-year period, the $4.5 billion Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project supplies natural gas to the Ilijan plant of Kepco and to the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo plants of First Gen Corp.

The gas field is 2,708 feet deep in the waters of Palawan, with the natural gas being pumped out to a processing plant and transported by tankers to Batangas.

## 2010 vehicle sales seen surpassing record

TRADE BODY MAKER CENTRO Manufacturing Corp. is optimistic that domestic vehicle industry sales this year may surpass the all-time high of 166,000 units set in 1996.

In a statement, Centro sales manager Vicente Belleza said his optimism was based on the success of the recent automated elections, the removal of political uncertainty in the economy and the recent issuance of Executive Order 877-A or the new Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Development Program.

"With the relatively peaceful and honest elections and the smooth turnover of power to the new administration, we expect investment in tourism infrastructure, including fleet vehicles, to pick up beyond the first semester level," Belleza said.

According to Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers in the Philippines (Camp), their executive sales of the industry reached 67,000 units, an increase of 16.4 percent from year ago level.

Of these, 44,212 units or 66 percent were commercial vehicles, which grew by 40.5 percent from 31,473 units in the same period last year.

Camp has projected that by the end of the year, out of every three vehicles sold in the country or about 99,000 units will be commercial vehicles.

"Although Camp is sticking to its original 2010 sales projection of 147,000 units or an increase of 11 percent from 2009 level, breaking the 1996 sales record of 166,000 units is still a possibility," Belleza said.

Belleza said that since Centro had always been involved in the growing commercial vehicle market, it stood to benefit from this renewed consumer confidence.

"We did experience a modest growth in our bus assembly sales. Our sales grew by about 5% percent over last year. We believe our sales were also partly boosted by election-related purchases during the period," Belleza explained.

"We also believe that the Philippine market has reached a level of maturity wherein consumers have now learned to want product quality and after-sales service more than price considerations. Consumers have also realized that Centro's galvanized iron bodies are superior to those made of regular steel sheet as G.I. provides more protection against corrosion, thus extending the useful life of the vehicle", he added.

Another boost not only to Centro's sales, but also to the vehicle local assembly was the recent issuance of EO 877.

Amy R. Remos

### GOINGS-ON

#### Negosyo Seminars

THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and industry recently held Negosyo Seminars (Negosyo) for micro, small and medium-scale entrepreneurs in 11 cities in the country as part of an advocacy to promote entrepreneurship as an alternative livelihood project.

The Negosyo is a year-round training and orientation, opportunity-updating, product development, marketing, and financing.

To date, areas that the DTI said for Negosyo have visited are: Region III (Olongapo City), Region I (Dagupan City, Alaminos, Urdaneta City, Tagaytay City, Cavite), Region II (Tuguegarao City, Cagayan), National Capital Region (Area 1 (Pasay City), Caraballo, Mandaluyong City, Area 2 (Quezon City), Region IV-A (Batangas City, Lucena City, Antipolo City), Region IV-B (Calapan City), Region V (Legazpi City, Naga City, Sorsogon City), Region VI (Iloilo City, Bacolod City), Region VII (Cebu City, Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City), Region VIII (Tacloban City, Ormoc City), Region IX (Zamboanga City), Region X (Cagayan de Oro City, Iligan City), Region XI (Davao City), Region XII (General Santos City, Koronadal City), and Region XIII (Butuan City, Surigao City).

#### Waterfront's new website

WATERFRONT HOTELS & CASINOS (Waterfront) has launched its new website www.waterfront.com.ph, offering a more exciting browsing and booking experience to its customers.

The site's reservation facility, powered by Micros Fidelio Opera Webpage Suite, gives users the convenience of real-time booking and instant confirmation. Following the recent launch of Blubu Boat Hotels' Central Reservations Office, a virtual one-stop service for all Waterfront hotels nationwide, the site complements existing capabilities built to make hotel booking accessible and convenient for its guests.

Both innovations—online booking and central reservations—are proof of the company's continuous efforts to provide world-class service and offline presence. With this updated Waterfront website, the group becomes a 21-second increase in online presence and productivity.

Also: Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Food

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

# Veggie 'puto pao,' 'aratiles' tart, coco jam 'ensaimada,' 'hopia ahos'—Bacolod specialties

IS ONE OF MY conversations with classics Peque Gallaga, I asked him to describe Bacolod in reference to its specific cuisine.

"Flamboyant, dashing, rich tables, adventurous, exciting, vegan, dessert, so thrill, we're master (Sandwich) but in this case (also we don't take ourselves too seriously and love a comic

MORE >>

# Breads of the world

## *Great potato remake for a favorite staple*

A POPULAR BAKESHOP IN DOWNTOWN MANILA recently introduced four exciting new products that became an instant hit with its customers.

Liberty Foodmart, a landmark in one of the busiest and most culturally diverse parts of Manila (re-created breads from Thai countries, inspired by the world traditions of "breaking bread" which means sharing a meal with friends and loved ones, Liberty Foodmart believed that offering these international favorites is its way of opening its doors to its neighbors from different countries.

But the breads were given a new twist that enhanced their desirable qualities—by adding US dehydrated potato flakes to the bread formulations. The result is breads with outstanding taste, aroma, tenacity feel and texture. These are the US Potato Ciabatta, US Potato French Bread, US Potato Cheese Ensaimada, and US Potato Asian Bread.

What really made the big difference in the new breads was the use of US dehydrated potatoes. They've made these breads better but the addition of the US dehy potato resulted in a noticeable improvement. For example, the Ciabatta, a popular Italian white bread, traditionally has a crisp crust and usually a dense or open textured crumb. Making it with US dehy flakes created a nicely crisp top but a slightly tender crumb that makes it great for making toasted sandwiches called Panini, or for dipping in olive oil and herb or other spreads.

Similarly the US Potato French Bread, usually characterized by a hardy crust and dry crumb inside, showed great eating qualities. The crust was perfectly crisp without being tough, and the crumb remained crisp but moist enough to give a nice biting experience.

The US Potato Cheese Ensaimada, a sweet Spanish bread became richer and softer but had enough body while the US Potato Asian Bread was deliciously savory with great texture and aroma.

**Like many bakers the world over, Liberty Foodmart has discovered the wonderful benefits of using US dehydrated potatoes. Incorporating US dehydrated potatoes in baking applications has been found to greatly improve texture and softness, make breads stay moist and fresh longer on the shelf, and impart a delicious flavor and aroma.**

Taste the delicious difference in US Potato Ciabatta, US Potato French Bread, US Potato Cheese Ensaimada, and US Potato Asian Bread at Liberty Foodmart branches in Tayuman and in Tondo, Manila.

To know more about US dehydrated potatoes, please call Ms. Shiji Batugal-Cinco at 554.6534 or 554.8233, e-mail address rmail@synergyasia.biz.

UNITED STATES Potato

# Veggie 'puto' pao, 'aratiles' tart . . .

From page C1

sense of humor like Tisoy, we do everything in a big way!"

"You have to understand that Mexgrounders were their sons-of-the-soil back to Cebu.

I love Cebu and its food. They have a certain sense of refinement. They are more conservative and, therefore, more traditional. Their cuisine reflects this. So when you come to Lucen what a real power souls, La Paz batchoy or even at today today should taste like, you go to the Iloilo tompleo. But if you want to circumvent, you're forgive cuisine.

"Encebod is where libertino are taken. So, for example, the authentic La Paz batchoy is a lot more peppery. The Mengen La Paz batchoy is pampamis!"

More than any of their Visayan cousins, the Negrosanons like to travel. They incorporate what they experience abroad in their dishes. During our country, worldwide in summer, we took a handful of Negrosanon immigrants on tour of our hangouts that's about like a beer joint. The assessment that the mantosa coming from the bar were straight from New York. And this lady can be quite snobbish about her tastes.

"There's a lot more Asian going on in this, and I don't necessarily mean Asian cuisine," she says.

"Negros is all about the people. We're not really farmers like our brothers in our provinces. We're mixed or fullfil farmer adventurers/men. When you come to Negros, the people embrace you and then feed you. Most people who come here complain that they end up on their sizes. Before feeling stuffed and done fed into retirement. That's how we show our love. We have great social hours—and I'm not limiting that to any class level of society. It goes up and down the scale. Once we take you into our hearts, we feed you to death and it's hard for you to say no. (Some agave even imagine evenings in Negros, under the stars with great drinks, great palates and even greater Bente dinners. There's a really palpable correlation between the stomach and the heart and here."

I agree with Bogie a hundred percent. I was in Bacolod last Wednesday. I was fed till I no longer could take it.

### Balanced Awards

Marlo, Bogie's wife, met me at the airport and whisked me straight to the Association of Negros Producers dinner. Later, on the evening of Christine Almonte, to sample all the now-food combo of the Balanced Awards, an annual competition that recognizes outstanding products by ANP members.

One of the first things laid before us was the respectable pusit pao.

I have learned that the term "stuffed" is, in fact, truly Negros-both, a byproduct of the Silo-Bent theology.

Agnes Danica, owner of Quasi's, told me that her ingenious delicacy was inspired by a school requirement. "My daughter asked me to cook something for her to take to school."

"I was going to make siopao but then ours ran flour!"

Necessity and panic food invention. Amazi with a pure recipe of her late husband's grandmother, Mercedes Julao-drost. Agnes decided to top the siopao filling with pusit batter. The rest, as they say, is history.

It is among the strength of the Bacolod non-food producers that their ability to keep what we love the most about their traditional delicacies and preparing it with the new.

### 'Aratiles' tarts

Take the other entry of Danica, aratiles tarts, one of the old blended with new creations which I was fortunate enough to try.

According to Agnes: "I remembered a friend whose mother used to cook aratiles with coconut milk. Pinanod for a long time up with a Bukidnon. I decided to try it experimented on the formula and came up with the tart."

Her tarts have a shortbread-like crust with an aratiles filling that was gooey with hints of coco-milk. It was delicious-ly delicious!

Other culinary adventures continued and soon, the three of us, fellow chefs Bobbie Gaco, Agnes Bornasaca and myself, found ourselves speechless once an evening around by Jovie Gaerlan Roda.

Not the light soft type but rather the old traditional brandy one, rich, dense, moist and buttery filled with mascarado caramel. Jam. The mascarado gave the marinade a different, deeper dimension.

I agree with its baker Lorrelie Jarvis when she says that her creation is not a "luminous treat."

There we discovered that one of the Negros's prominent treats comes in tiny packages.

Imagine a rich, smooth, creamy bagnet filling, spiked with toasted garlic, wrapped in flaky sweet, in size just right to the bite.

According to Margarita Villareal, chairman whose was inspired by suggestion made by ANP consultant, chef Gemma Cuison of Café Uma, who, after trying our Ilopia Sobayan, advised "to make a garlic flavored cheese."

"I was so happy for it is the continuation of our bestseller: Ilopia Sobayan and Garlic Toast."

For morning those two, thanks, Ionic. The Ilopia Rice is a match made in culinary heaven.

They can send the goodies to you via LBC.

Gaspar Encomienda at 09 16 9435568

Ma-an Villas, 09 22 8881345

Chelsea and Wapenhi Pain Pao—09 17 3866366

For cooking all sorts of fish tomorrow, **Well Librator** be doing my Back to School Cooking Series Featuring Recipes Kids Love. For a complete list of my classes, reservations and information, call 09209096, 09064939, 92778888, 09208 2372848.

*E-mail the author: rmpinto@inquirer.com.ph*

# Why piping-hot 'sinigang' is the national dish

By Irene C. Pinto

THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY sinigang is considered the national dish. It is easy to cook, requires readily available ingredients, and can be enjoyed anywhere—at home or by a restaurant.

"Sinigang is a household dish. It evokes that, you basically just put everything in one pot," says culinary consultant-researcher Marvin Gaisigang.

"Usually when you dine out, you order the food that you don't cook at home, but people still order sinigang when they want something with whose. Some order adobo, but only if it has a twist, like adobo flakes."

Sinigang was recently awarded the Ultimate Filipino Dish in a nationwide search for the Filipinos' favorite food dish. The campaign, called "Iron Pinoy Cooking Filipino Flavors: National Search for the Ultimate Pinoy Dish," was organized by the Bureau of Innovation with Unilever Foodsolutions and the Department of Tourism.

Sinigang garnered the most number of votes via SMS and online polls, beating other food items like adobo, crispy pata, chicken inasal and kare-kare.

### Cooking sour broth

Piping-hot sinigang is such a favorite that it is consumed even during hot days. As business columnist Antonio Lazaro quoted from "Why Sinigang?," a noted essay by the late food historian and critic Doreen Fernandez:

"Yet explanation was that sour foods are cooling in hot weather. One can also add that sinigang is soothing to the sick, and, after a fiesta, with rich food, sinigang brings the palate back down to earth. According to Fernandez, the tanginess in sinigang reflects not only the ingenuity of Filipino cooks, but it also shows the effect of geography on our tastes. Fish and veg. staples in our sinigang are mirrors of the Philippine landscape. The tang sinigang is prepared and preferred in different regions reflects the environment.

"More importantly, the sour sinigang is a perfect foil for the mild. I would say blandness, of boiled rice. Show me what you eat and I will tell you what you are. Perhaps food habits do have to do with shakes thing we call national identity."

The ingredients are simple: meat such as pork, beef, chicken, or seafood such as shrimps and fish; vegetables—onions, tomatoes, radish, gabi, okra, kangkong, finger chilis (siling mahaba), and a souring agent such as tamarind, calamansi, santol, and some parts of plants.

The veggies are boiled in a pot of water, followed by the meat and the souring agent. Some prefer using flavorings like Knorr cubes, which comes in chicken, beef, pork, fish and shrimp variety. These items are available in all SM grocery stores, one of the partners in the Iron Pinoy campaign.

But how do you search the taste with the true essence and the real sinigang aguas? Chef Sinigang gives some tips.

"The popular choice is a tamarind soup base for its slightly sweet taste. Any fish good sinigang, you can use the traditional tamarind fruit puree or the Knorr tamarind powder mix which is more convenient. A dash of tamarind would yield taste for 1-2 liters of broth, compared with one pack of sinigang mix," he says.

"Tamarind is also used for chicken cooked like sinampalukan, and also beef. Aurelio is used for seafood like shrimps or prawns, while water is best for fish and seafood like burgos and salmon belly or tuna head, to remove the fishy taste. In Western Visayas such as in Bacolod, butter is a staple. It is slightly bigger than calamansi. In fact, bonbon is commonly used."

The sour ingredients and the vegetables—onion, tomato, kangkong, eggplant and gabi, which would be mashed to make the broth thicker. Seafood sinigang has fewer ingredients, usually just onions, tomatoes, kangkong and labanos.

### Alternative ingredients

The sinigang has evolved over time. New concoctions now include canned beef, bulalo and bagnet sinigang. In the absence of local ingredients, such as when one is abroad, alternative ingredients can be used.

"If kangkong is not available, spinach, pechay or broccoli leaves are good alternatives, and tomato can be used instead of gabi," Gaisigang adds.

The 28-year-old chef took up Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management at De La Salle University-College of Saint Benilde, then trained at Mandarin Oriental Manila and Union Hotel Tokyo. He is currently sinigang in gusto.

"What I do is I sauté the garlic a little. I brown some onions and tomatoes to a little oil and add the pork to give any sinigang a little brown color and more flavor. I set aside vegetables and add them before serving to make them crispy. Of course, when the sinigang is re-heated, the veggies are not veggie."

Here are some new sinigang recipes from Unilever Foodsolutions chef Tony Penalosa.

### Sinigang na Dalag sa Piya

- 100 ml oil
- 5 g ground turmeric
- 50 g diced garlic
- 50 g diced onion
- 20 g diced ginger
- 1 liter water
- 200 g sampaloc pineapple, peeled and diced
- 1 kg dalag, cleaned and hard
- 20 g Knorr tamarind soup base
- 5 g Knorr Fish Cube
- 2 bulb kangkong
- 200 g kangkong leaves

Add turmeric to oil. When oil is bright yellow, add in garlic and onions. Add tomatoes and ginger; sauté. Add in water and pineapples. Once pineapples have softened, add in dalag. Flavor with Knorr Tamarind Soup Base and Knorr Fish Cube. Add in kangkong leaves and remove from heat.

### Sinigang na Baka't Sugpo sa Kamatis

- 300 ml canola oil
- 50 g diced garlic
- 50 g diced onion
- 250 g diced tomatoes
- 3.5 L sliced, bone-softening (for beef and pecan shells and heads
- 1 kg beef short ribs, browned and sliced
- 250 g dalian, sliced
- 250 g okra, sliced
- 25 g Knorr Tamarind Soup Base
- 5 g Knorr Shrimp Powder
- 300 g tomato, sliced and grilled
- 500 g pecans, shelled and deveined

Cook garlic, onions and tomatoes in oil until tomatoes is mashed. Add in stock, then shrimp and shrimp.

Once shrimp is softened, add in Knorr Tamarind Soup Base and okra. Season with Knorr Shrimp Powder. Add in pecans and grilled tomatoes. Simmer until pecans change color.

CHEF Martin Kalaging

SINIGANG na bigas

## 'Usually when you dine out, you order the food that you don't cook at home, but people still order 'sinigang'

SINTRO'S sinigang on tomato base

# 'Churrasco'—Brazilian barbecue—in eight varieties

By Margie Baga-Reyes

OF ALL COOKING METHODS, THERE IS none more aromatically appealing and enjoyable than grilling or barbecuing. That's why family barbecues on Sundays has always been a perfect way to unwind and catch up, as well as to entertain and bond with loved ones.

Churrasco is the Brazilian term for barbecue. Brazilian churrasco is any boneless cut of meat, sliced slightly thin as a steak, seasoned and grilled over hot coals or on a very hot skillet.

Churrascaria is Brazil persists to a restaurant serving chef-tossed-to-your skewers. In a typical churrascaria, the waiters move around the restaurant with skewers, personally bringing the skewers to the guests' table carving box, to be carved and dished onto their plate.

The experience of experiencing something unique to Brazil will be offered by Rizal Hunger La Manila's premier buffet restaurant, Heat, starting July 3 and will take place every Saturday of July from 6 to 10:30 p.m. (tel. 8169077).

"Churrascos were made popular by the gauchos, or cowboys, from southern Brazil, who roasted meat on long skewers over a pit of flaming coals," says executive sous chef Ashley Lucas. "The key element to the preparation of the premium meats used is traditional marinades and rubs, the recipes for which have been passed down for generations."

Eight varieties of specialty cut meats cooked pincho-style using traditional marinades will complement the regular dinner buffet offerings. They are: Garcho tenderloin or rebade rib eye with red vinegar dip; Picanha, from the triple of tail; Boda Duel tenderloin with banana butter; coating; Churrasco with Chimichurri sauce; lamb steak with white vinegar, jalapeño, oregano and olive oil dip; Churrasquinho frites-aux boulevard beef tenderloin and bacon with olive oil and lemon juice; Churrasco de Frango; chicken barbecue with Brazilian vinaigrette; Churrasco de Porco with Aji Amarillo (pork barbecue marinated in Spanish paprika with pineapple salsa); Cheirasco de Cordero (lamb rack or leg with rosemary and lime rub); and Churrasco de Cheddar (cheddar sausage with chives).

"The Heat team will personally bring the skewered meat to each table steaming hot from the grill, with each meat skillfully carved onto the plates while still dripping with its natural juices. All the meats are succulent and perfectly grilled and you can have as much as you want," says Lucas.

### Churrasco with Chimichurri Sauce

**Ingredients**

- 1½-lb boned sirloin steak
- 1¼ c. chimichurri sauce
- ¼ c. white vinegar
- ¼ c. chopped onion
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 2 tsp. dried oregano
- 2 tsp. dried thyme
- 2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. salt
- 6 garlic cloves, chopped (about ¼ oz.)
- 3 bay leaves

Trim fat from steak. Set aside. Combine chimichurri and next nine ingredients (chimichurri through bay leaves) in a large zip-top plastic bag. Add steak to bag and seal. Marinate in refrigerator for three hours, turning occasionally. Remove steak from bag, discard marinade.

Prepare grill. Place steak on grill rack coated with cooking spray; grill steak for eight minutes on each side or until the desired degree of doneness. Let stand for three minutes. Cut steak diagonally across grain into thin slices. Serve with chimichurri sauce.

To make chimichurri sauce: Place ½ c. white vinegar, 2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil, ¼ tsp. salt, 6 garlic cloves, 2 bay leaves, 2 jalapeño peppers (stems removed) in a blender; process until smooth. Add 1 c. minced fresh parsley, ¼ c. minced fresh oregano and stir well.

CHEF Ashley Lucas carving the grilled meat straight onto diners' plates

Churrasco de Cordero

(Lamb Barbecue with Rosemary Rub)

Ingredients:

2 kg lamb rack or boned lamb leg

100 ml lime juice

4 cloves crushed garlic

4 finely chopped anchovies

2 onions, chopped

½ g chopped rosemary

½ g thyme

3 bay leaves

250 ml red wine (shiraz is preferred)

½ g peppercorns

Mix all the ingredients together and marinate the lamb in them for 48 hours. Remove from the marinade, then rub with the rosemary rub and roast over the grill slowly until cooked.

To make rosemary rub: Marinate 10 g finely chopped rosemary leaves, juice of 1 lime, 2 g salt and 50 ml olive oil in a pestle and mortar to form a paste.

# Versatile vinaigrettes for healthy meals

Text and photos by Walter Ang
Crate Diaries

"VINAIGRETTES OFfer an alternative healthy way to enjoy your greens and other salads," said Nancy Hernandez, brand manager of Clara Olé Vinaigrettes.

At the launch of Clara Olé's new products, Hernandez explained that vinaigrette is a healthy option, as it contains lower fat compared to dressings, because vinaigrette's base is vinegar, whereas dressings have egg yolks, cream and other ingredients that make it thick. What's more, the Clara Olé vinaigrettes have zero trans-fat and zero cholesterol.

Weighing in moderation is healthier than cavoiding it," Hernandez said. She suggests pouring vinaigrette onto a tablespoon first before drizzling it on greens. "This way you are aware of and can control the amount. Two to three tablespoons per salad serving is okay."

Portion control is one of the most beheaded modifications for weight management. Two tablespoons may not seem enough for people used to drowning their salads in dressing, but chef Carlo Miguel, who entered the launch, said this amount can go a long way if you toss your salad with your hands to ensure all the greens are coated.

"Just make sure your hands are clean," he said. "This also ensures that you will avoid mashing the greens too roughly. Always pick the freshest vegetables and wash them properly using clean flowing water."

Miguel just competed in the reality TV show, "Biggest Loser Asia." He used to weigh 308 lbs, but lost a total of 110 lbs by cutting down on his food intake and exercising regularly. He now focuses on maintaining his weight and advocating the advantages of healthy eating.

Clara Olé vinaigrettes have zero trans-fat and zero cholesterol

CHEF Carlo Miguel at the launch

## Versatile

Clara Olé is manufactured by Ajeo International and is acclaimed for the style of Clara Olé's founder, Ruben Ayau. "Olé' is a Spanish word that connotes celebration, good times and thanksgiving," Hernandez said.

"The brand Clara Olé calls to mind the spirit and passion of Spain and hopes to make every meal a sumptuous celebration while highlighting the importance of good health, that's why we come up with the Clara Olé Vinaigrettes."

Mix and eating nutritious, highly fibrous and a well-balanced meal combined with daily exercise is one sure way of attaining good health and prevention from sicknesses and diseases. "It's also beneficial to your emotional and psychological well-being to enjoy simple encounters, like having meals with family and friends," she added.

For family members who aren't keen on greens, Hernandez pointed out the versatility of the Clara Olé vinaigrettes. "They don't have to be used only for salads, you can use them as dips or for cooking meats, too," she said. She also recommended steamed, grilled, baked or sautéed meats to snack of fried food.

## Variants

The My, My Parmesan variant is made with parmesan cheese and garden fresh herbs.

"It has a citrusy-tangy taste," she said. "Besides using it with crisp, fresh vegetables, you can drizzle it over baked chicken and potatoes. It can also serve as the perfect dip for chips and is deliciously complements soft Italian bread."

Hernandez recommended using the Pesto Please! variant to add flavor to grilled or baked seafood or chicken.

"You can add a delicately zesty, pepper's flavor with a hint of freshness to your meals," she said. For a quick refreshing salad for the humid weather, Hernandez recommends using this variant with tomato and mozzarella slices with chopped fresh basil.

Please love sweet dressings for their salads and will most likely enjoy the Orange You Glad and Mango Mad variants.

"The Orange You Glad! vinaigrette has a citrus freshness and isn't too sweet flavor," she said. "For a deliciously enticing contrast of sweetness, saltiness and creaminess, mix this variant with cubes of feta, blue or gorgonzola cheese."

"The Mango Mad vinaigrette instantly gives your favorite vegetable, fruit, meat and seafood salads a tropical boost. It is also perfect when sprinkled over salsa," she added.

For a more Asian flair, Hernandez suggested the "Sesame Mischief" variant. "It has a mix of anise, zesty and sweet, seasoned by a hint of ginger. This is one that can be used as a dip for steamed vegetables and grilled or steamed seafood," she said. "You can also add it to your barbecue marinade and instantly transform the taste to a distinctly Oriental-tasted ribs, too."

*Call 8169851 or 8186859 or visit www.claraole.com.*

### Clara's Baked Chicken

1 kg chicken fillet
1 250-ml bottle Clara Olé My, My Parmesan Vinaigrette
1 tbsp chopped garlic
½ c chopped red onions
½ tsp dried rosemary
1½ tsp salt
½ c all purpose flour
½ c all purpose cream
1/3 c milk
2 tbsp cornstarch
1 c broccoli, cut into florets
½ c sliced button mushrooms

Marinate chicken fillet with Clara Olé My, my Parmesan Vinaigrette, garlic, onions, rosemary and salt for at least four hours. Drain and reserve marinade.

Dredge chicken pieces in flour and arrange in a baking dish. Place vegetables over chicken.

Whisk in cream, milk and cornstarch to marinade and pour over chicken. Cover with foil and bake in a preheated 350°F oven for 30 minutes.

Remove foil and bake for another 20 minutes or until chicken is thoroughly cooked.

Serves 6-8

### THE HEALTHY POINTS OF KING RICE BRAN OIL

King

Edible oil, in general, has always had a bad reputation for being fatty and unhealthy. But the truth is, it all depends on your choice of oil and the natural nutrition it possesses. In this arena, King Rice Bran Oil is clearly naturally the king of edible oils. Here are the reasons why:

King Rice Bran Oil has a high Oryzanol and Phytosterol level. Oryzanol is a powerful natural antioxidant found ONLY in rice bran oil, not in any other vegetable oils. It is more active than Vitamin E in fighting free radicals. Phytosterol on the other hand, is effective in reducing cholesterol absorption in the body. It has been found that Phytosterol can inhibit growth of colon, breast and prostate cancer cells. This is why King Rice Bran is more effective in lowering your blood cholesterol level, reducing your cholesterol synthesis, preventing cancer, and even treating hormonal disorders.

King Rice Bran Oil naturally has a high smoke point of 232C-257C or 450F-490F, which is higher than most vegetable oils. It doesn't break down to glycerol and free fatty acids at high temperatures. Plus, its' light viscosity also allows less oil to be absorbed in the food than you cook, reducing overall calorie intake. It doesn't smoke under high heat. So no matter what you cook with it, your dishes are never greasy and they stay true to their aroma and flavor.

Oil is a natural part of cooking. But do choose the healthier option. Choose King Rice Bran Oil.

# 'Bobotie, braii, pulse dhal'–South Africa's famous dishes

EVERY TRIP TO A DIFFERENT place requires me to visit supermarkets and bookstores. In the process, it's nice to go through bargain book sales because I find cheap treasures there. But in foreign places, I look for interesting food books that say something of the place as well.

Because South Africa is in the sporting news these days with the Fifa World Cup going on, I remembered my visit there two years ago mainly for a wine show in Cape Town. There are two books that made that trip special because they are different.

"The South Africa Illustrated Cookbook" by Lekha Ghidjay looks like a child's book. Instead of pictures of dishes, she decided to draw and paint them including the people who gave her the recipes and the landmarks she saw as she traveled through the country. It's personal and creates warmth, something you wish you could do if only. Like Ghidjay, you had a feel for who taught her and a reason why she cooked.

At least I can try my hand at the food I ate there such as Bobotie, a Cape dish such as egg and milk mixture over it. But there is another version which Ghidjay calls "Cooking Bobo's Bobotie of Reconciliation" that uses sweet instead. Or I can do my own twist, the South African barbecue with as many marinade flavors as from olive oil, white wine, chili powder, cumin, black pepper, salt, rhino tongue, mustard, tomato sauce and soy sauce.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

The other book was "Quick Food: A Recipe for Family" that is like that certainly caught my eye and when I looked through it, I was unlike my book in my limited food library. The recipes are from the Buddhist Retreat Centre of South Africa so, of course, the dishes are vegetarian. The dishes mentioned above doesn't have the meat or fish but were soybeans or chickpeas instead. What I like most are the names of the recipes, like your Feline Dhal, Bangle's Ganesh, Frog in a Pond (baked fish pudding).

**Meditative process**

At the bottom of the cover it says "Items that lend to clam food to quiet food." Quiet time is what the book urges, to make cooking a meditative process by taking your time; feeling textures, tasting bits of ingredients. Then after the eating, what's next? According to the book, the answer is every time. "When you have eaten, you wash the dishes."

So, I haven't gotten beyond reading these two books like I haven't with the other books bought abroad.

Inched within my "A Little Scandinavian Cookbook" by Janet Laurence is the label of a Swedish biscuit called "Wasa Sport."

In Diana texture made my brother drink of an acronic board. The introduction is short but it gives the differences of cooking and eating in the three Scandinavian countries. Denmark has more meats, boiled pork and bacon. Norway depends on the sea for its main food. Sweden has the more sophisticated cuisine and having visited the country twice, I of late that. Again, instead of pictures, the book has illustrations by Agnetha Petersen, and it part of a series of other books that includes Irish, Caribbean, even Jewish cooking.

Of course, when going to bookstores or non-English speaking countries, you go straight to the English cooking stalls. You will find food books though not many of them.

In Tokyo, I must have bought "A Gift of Japanese Cooking" because the author, Hideko Itoga, said in his introduction that he has traveled extensively through most of Europe, America, Canada and the Philippines. But I liked the graphics as well. Japanese drawings such as the one on the cover which has two women, one cooking and the other blowing the stove fire.

According to Tini, he is a vegetarian by predicament but he also loves to cook and he wanted to have this book explain home-cooked dishes to non-Japanese readers like many of his friends.

"The Netherlands Cookbook" is on Dutch in color (blue and white). The author, Heleen A.M. Rijsbrouck devotes one section about the food habits in the Netherlands. Breakfast in the most Western countries is bread and butter, dinner, eggs. Then there is "elevenses," that is at 11 a.m., it's coffee and a piece of food which is cake is most of us. Then there's lunch with different rolls sometimes with ham, sausage, cooked.

Tea time is at 4 p.m. with tea and biscuit. At least after is happy hour with friend or Dutch gin. At 6 or 7 p.m., it's dinner which is the first real meal, 9 p.m. is tea time or coffee break time with cookies or cakes. And if they stay awake after that, perhaps another alcoholic break. That's seven or eight times eating and drinking in one day.

And my thoughts we had too many eating breaks.

*E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com*

## Go nuts over 'pili' nuts

CARAMEL IT IS DELICIOUS and addictive. Sure, it is too, (mostly rusty and buttery with oil). Either way, it is fantastic. No wonder, it is one of Ilirol's most popular delicacies.

Pili nuts are native to the Philippines, and although they are grown in commercial trees in other tropical countries like Malaysia, only in the Philippines are they produced and processed commercially.

The fruit of this tropical tree is harvested from areas in the Bicol region where it grows naturally. So far, there is no commercial farming of the pili trees. So it all depends on nature's bounty.

Pili nuts are high in calcium, phosphorus, and potassium, and rich in fats and protein. People love its tender-crisp texture, smooth texture and subtle sweet flavor. It also has the highest oil content among all edible nuts which probably gives it the oil-yet crunchy feel.

As an ingredient, the pili nut is highly versatile. It goes well in cakes, ice cream, pies, candies and puddings. It can also be a viable substitute for expensive pine nuts in a regular pesto recipe, making the dish more nutritious, tasty and economical.

PILI products available at Kasanyuran Legazpi in Albay City

Indeed, pili nut has a big potential in becoming a staple in farmers' tables in Philippines and to help boost the development, Kasanyuran Market creates more business opportunities to pili nut local producers by making this delicacy available at the newly-opened Kasanyuran Legazpi at the Legazpi Grand Terminal in Albay City—from fresh pili to various eateries such as pili cake, crispy pili, pastillas de pili and pili nut brittle.

Kasanyuran offers the same benefits that people have come to expect from an SM store—great product selection, fair pricing, and many value-added services like money exchange, remittance, payment center for utilities and ATM.

LIFESTYLE Food

# Where is Filipino food in the US marketplace?

If there is any secret ingredient to winning over the Americans, it has to be food

By Dennis Clemente
Contributor

NEW YORK—AT A FILIPINO restaurant-bar showing a recent Manny Pacquiao fight, a group of young Filipino-Americans, wearing Pacquiao and Philippine-inspired shirts, stood up when the Philippine national anthem came on, while the first-generation Filipino immigrants sat immobilized in their chairs. While the gesture is admirable and even patriotic, it clearly showed one generation's expressiveness over another's nonchalance.

Filipino-Americans (especially second-generation Filipinos) can be patriotic to Philippines-born Filipinos (mostly first-generation Filipinos, 20 years old up, upon arrival in the States). They make it a point to express themselves when given the chance, even if they may be inward-looking Americans first and Filipinos second.

First-generation Filipinos who emigrated here in their adulthood, on the other hand, have a more worldly view, an outward-looking perspective that makes them more citizens of the world first and Filipinos second. What does it mean to be Filipino then? Should we be satisfied with the label, Gerald Pinoy, for lack of any particular distinction?

From what I see, though, more and more Filipino-Americans are undergoing what is called socio-acculturation—the infusion of lifestyle experiences with their own cultural heritage to complete their identity.

## No reservations

Let's look back at the "No Reservations: Philippines" episode, shown February 2009 on the Travel Channel where young Filipino-American Stephen Stefano of Long Island gave this revealing statement: "I am neither entirely American nor entirely Filipino, but am kind of stuck in the middle."

Stefano was answering the question, "Who are Filipinos?" before the man who has skipped the Philippines in his TV coverage of Southeast Asian food many times, widely renowned New York-based food adventurer Anthony Bourdain.

Stefano claimed his Chinese and Korean friends in the States know so much more about their culture and language than him. It's this confession, he also seems to be saying, that he is one of those American-born Filipinos who cannot speak and, in some cases, understand Filipino, something that their parents didn't bother to teach them.

The young Filipino-American deserves praise, though. With little knowledge about his country, an observation shared by Bourdain, Stefano achieved what no other Filipino, government official or public figure, has done. Bring Bourdain to our country, which, typical of the foodie's inquisitive mind, only encouraged him to tackle a broader cultural forum, one that involved Stefano's identity crisis.

Bourdain would later serve up one tricky question after another, a feat he thought: "Why don't we have Filipino food representated in the States as much as other foods?"

Stereotypes undergo a period of adjustment in transition. There is the first stage called acculturation, a stage when he first arrives in America and adjusts himself to the culture. This is not a problem for Filipinos. There is the second stage where he assimilates, and becomes part of the culture and way of life here. A tradeoff that is impossible for other cultures, as easy one for Filipinos. Then there are first-generation parents who has ingrained in their American-born children that adjusting to the American way of life would be better for them in the long haul.

WHERE D2

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPH

BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY

BY PH. LUGOD

DICK TRACY

LOVEBOOTS

BY ELIZABETH HOMONGILO

JAMES BOND

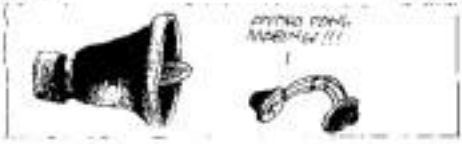
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN HALAHAN

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

TULDOK



BY HARA COLL

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

BIRD MACHINE

BY MIKO ABRERA

MARRIED TO THE LADDIN

BY JIM TOOMEY

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CRANE

**THIS BORN TODAY** Have a carefree person, and often are born bridges the boundaries of race and creed. Be family can put the Rainbow. If you're born today, you appreciate the spiritual, not physical, side of life. Your views, complex individual. Your ideas are unique and should be heard by others. Your famous friend.

**Birthdays of** Martin Scorsese, actor Pamela Anderson, actress; Diane Princess of Wales.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Discussions with family members, especially about family businesses, will be fruitful today. Evaluate your position day to make decisions.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** You're unusually eager to communicate to others. You have bright ideas and a strong urge to exchange information and opinions. This is a great day for any kind of "talk" work.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** You're full of conversation today. Have fun. In addition, you are eager to share anything to benefit those you are related to over these issues. You're on the ball!

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** You're full of loving feelings today. Romance is in your sign, and it is definitely here. Now is why you'll say what you mean and mean what you say!

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)** You're a wonderful day to do something for your family. You'll approach whatever you're looking for with a logical and thoughtful perspective. You want answers, you want results.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)** Whether you're at a romantic date, a conference or a casual meeting, you're confident and sure of yourself. You're the center of attention today! People will all go out of their way to help you. Whatever you have to say.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Discussions with friends, partners and associates are favored today. Romance is also favored. Be open to new ideas, and be willing to share your own. Don't hesitate to speak up! This is a good day to make appointments you need.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Study of any kind will go well today. Research and investigation are favored. Be encouraged to explore new ideas or even hand to new places.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Spiritual kinds of activities are favored today. Be open to new ideas, and be willing to share your own. Don't hesitate to speak up! This is a good day to make appointments you need.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)** Conversations with partners and other friends will be lively today! Some of you might try to convince you of something, or vice versa. (People are persuasive today, including you.)

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)** Success in work is something you desire to see today, want to, and how to get there. Don't hesitate to speak up! This is a good day to make appointments you need.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)** What a wonderful, creative day! This is also an energetic day for sports, playful activities with children and making romantic plans for the future. Yay!

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

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| 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 |

**Conceptis Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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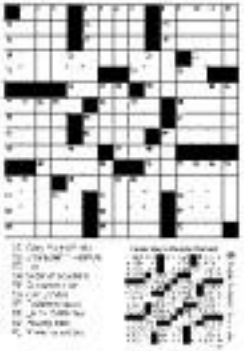
| | 8 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 6 | | | 5 | |
| | | 9 | | | | 2 | | 1 |
| | 2 | | 3 | 1 | 6 | | 7 | |
| 1 | | 3 | | | | 4 | | |
| | | 4 | | | 7 | | | |
| | | | | | | 8 | 9 | |
| 2 | | | | | | 1 | 7 | |

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



# Where to get the best Japanese noodles

WHENEVER I TRAVEL TO ANY Asian country, one of the things I try to do besides, I love to examination of Korean, Japanese and street-style noodles either with soup or without.

Malaysia has two versions which are my favorites. My Gotong is a dry egg noodle dish. It's pale-looking with shrimps and squid, while the one with shrimp is called Lobster. This has more flavor than the Singapore version, which has more sauce than soup. This soup is similar to our "mami." The dry Singaporean noodles taste like curry and have basic spinach and shredded chicken.

At Indonesian point I tried many years ago in Amsterdam, which had a combination of different kinds of noodles, tossed with fresh and crunchy basil sprouts, was also delicious. Thailand's dry version is the Phad Thai cooked of shrimp and has unique-colored flat noodles with chopped peanuts, spring onions, tofu, no cashew egg and light tamarind sauce. I sampled a noodle soup dish on a street in Bangkok, which is similar to our Lomi by, but this version had crispy shiitakes on top. Very tasty.

India has a version of Mi Goreng, which I prefer than their Malaysian counterpart. Vietnam has its different plus. A dry version I tried was one with spicy chicken, shredded banana blossoms, thick rice noodles and Vietnamese fingering. Oh my God, out of this world! Locally, we have our own name of La Paz Batchoy for noodle soup and pansit canton. Arroz, ayroso what looked like a noodle plate with Japanese before on the glass. I have these kinds of explanations. As soon as I walked in, I knew what I had chosen a perfect place to have lunch. All over the place were Japanese diners slurping away at their huge bowls of noodles. Slurping, according to some Asian cultures, indicates appreciation of one's cooking.

Not knowing what to order, I asked for the most popular of the dishes. There were three soup bases: Soy, salt and miso. The most popular is the miso. It is the filling that makes the difference.

I ended up with miso-based noodle soup with char siu pork, spring onions and bean sprouts. The soup is piping hot, and I understood, for the very first time, why one chopsticks-eating duck. It makes dining with noodles so much more enjoyable. Delicious!

There's a tip below charging that first mouthful, though. Blow into that dripping hot "mami" for a minute or two. Otherwise, you'll cry due to a burnt tongue.

Another one I loved was the soup-less noodles called Mixed Soba. These are dried noodles with spring onions, boiled shrimps and slices of tender pork. Flavor is subtle, but this dish stands out. I don't know what kind of oil they use, but my lips looked glossy after eating. I tasted A must try! I also tried the vegetable with chili. Okay din.

The Japanese diner who obviously knew what he was ordering asked for a hot R, which is made up of soba soba, onigiri soup, green and salad. I will definitely go back for it. I love Miso Discovery!

The owner's chef is Japanese, who had a towel wrapped around his head—just like the ones in all those soba places in Japan. It reminds me of stories my friends would often tell. Every time they would have an experience of wrap. Their heads with a bandana similar to what the chef wears.

Is it worth a visit? Most definitely! Check these out.

Happy eating!

Word of Mouth

*Sandy Daza*

Shabbat Ramen Ave is located at #22 Roxas Blvd., Ermita. (formerly Sunny Road), Malate. Call 8504-7988.

E-mail sandydaza@yahoo.com

# Where is Filipino food in the US marketplace?

Pinoy-pop #4

This explains Helmer of the US and Ilustre of the Philippines. In the show, Ilustre said Helmer was "decidedly toned down" back in the Philippines, he being the "most outlandish" of all the people he met in the States.

In the Philippines, there is a thing called "pakikisama," a leaning toward collectivism that differentiates it from the Anglo philosophy of individualism. Helmer was let's about who he was because, being in the Philippines, he had to adjust to its predominant "pakikisama" culture. But at what cost to his identity—but then again, what identity is it, really?

This question can draw a blank response: Where is true Filipino food?

Boredom's comment about our food's limited exposure in the US is too glaring to ignore. Seeing nearby online may not even primarily results. On metropolitan cores, no listing of "Filipino" or "Philippine" restaurants appeared. Searching for "Korean" restaurants generated 65 listings, and to drink they got one million less.

There are about six to seven Filipino restaurants in New York, two or three of them in Manhattan (one closed down as recent as this past), and about three in Queens (why are they hiding there?). You wonder if they are like our islands—visible only on high tide. What was astounding to find out, though, is the number of Chinese restaurants in New York: 3,597, according to the United Chinese Restaurant Association of America.

There are 2.3 million Filipinos in the States, according to the US Census 2000; some estimates put it at 3 million. Still, we are more than the Thais, Koreans, Japanese and Vietnamese. Unfortunately, though, they all have more restaurants than us. The Chinese in America number not to only 780,000, and yet the five restaurants we have compared to them is mind-boggling.

While the Chinese certainly has one of the finest cuisines in Asia, which helps them sustain a visible economic base, it's disturbing to think that even with our limited Filipino restaurants, we don't even have one fast food brand or showcase our fast food concepts.

Our food is presented in only three ways—as unappetizing fusion, American style that food, and home-cooking in the typical sense. Crispy pata on all its knee-knock fat glory is not indeed non-Filipino friends at one time that they left it astonished.

Why can't our restaurants be where investors can discover our food? Are we intimidated? The answer is cultural, dating back to how our restaurants doomed to inferior.

Two years ago, I asked the owner of the best Filipino restaurant in a great Queens neighborhood to put up a Filipino restaurant in Manhattan, as America can compete can be found. The answer: "We're happy where we are." His restaurant in Queens is now closed. Meanwhile, a small Chinese restaurant can be found in the busiest and toniest areas in Manhattan. The thinking goes this way: "more foot traffic, the better for my business."

Filipino restaurants have remain under the radar also because they choose not to have a clear identity or have no clear identifying marks. Nobody seems to know that presenting food is as much an art as it is cooking style...and more important, perhaps, a proper and proud signage at the entrance door.

A Japanese restaurant, for instance, will not compromise on its Japanese cuisine. Who cares if you can't pronounce its name correctly, when the important thing is that before its name it is labeled accordingly, "Japanese restaurant."

Two Filipino restaurants here, with con pretense and American a name, do not even bother to explain what cuisine they represent. Instead of a tagline to identify its cuisine, it has a purgatory sticker and Philippine flag, while another, on its website, abruptly says "American fusion fusion," which is redundant of itself and confusing to me. In the right mind, pork lumpia not fit in to identify. Second, it's not fusion, it's literally Filipino cooking, home-style. Again with the hair-trimmed photo of crispy pata plonked down on one's table, which may not be fine with Filipinos to see but not others people.

If there is any secret ingredient to winning over the Americans, it has to be food. The Chinese have conquered America's taste buds by staying true to their culture, while we rather and in annoyingly because we want to belong, to assimilate. In fact, there are 400,000 Chinese restaurants in the US—more than McDonald's and Taco Bells combined, according to National Public Radio.

At the end of the program, Bourdain, relishing the "best meal you ever" asked again why is the Philippines "a blank page..." and why doesn't it have a "higher profile in the United States." He gave an answer about our many assimilating ways before he gave his own answer, "I think you're just too damn nice."

I'm afraid to say he wasn't really talking about our manners.

*The author can be reached at sherwin-merry@yahoo.com.*

Dining Out

## Appetizing oysters with seaweed and tomatoes

KUSE, A RESTAURANT THAT SERVES TRADITIONAL FILIPINO FOOD, offers Ishinae in Oyster with tacos seaweed and tomatoes. The oysters are topped with generous amounts of garlic and have slowly-white tissue of combined grape, fish sauce, vinegar and strong vodka. Kusina located at the G/F, The Valenzo Plaza, McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Call 836-4966.

**Bargoo stew**

Burgoo recommends the 4th of July by giving away free Burgoo Stew to all guests who will dine at the resto till July 11. Burgoo Stew is one the restaurant's popular dishes, along with Bulalohong Style Baby Back Ribs, Grilled Pork Chops, Seafood Caesar Salad and Choo Cheesecake. Burgoo is located at Times Square, Bonifacio Center, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Greenhills, Quezon Mall, SM Mall of Asia, Robinsons Galleria, The Block SM City North EDSA, SM City Marikina. Call 3271434, 898 1919, 687 2334, 910 7555, 3365951, 6356256, 4435113 and 477 1833.

**Seafood jambalaya**

Gumbo New Orleans Restaurant marks US Independence Day with Free Gumbo on July 4-11. Dishes include Seafood Jambalaya, New Orleans Pizza, Bourbon Ribs, Barbecue Shrimps, Seafood Gumbo and Creole and Cajun dishes. Gumbo is located at SM Mall of Asia, Robinsons Manila Malhotra and The Block SM City North EDSA. Call 836 2878/ 687 1555/ 3365256.

**Manila spareribs**

Harbour & Eggs prefers Manila Spareribs 259.5, Lower Lechon Longganisa, US Angus Tapa and Salt and Pepper Pork Hita. Pasalubong Dito and Strawberry Banana. Harbour & Eggs is located at the G/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. (+ 01 837 8218), and Eastwood City Walk 1, Eastwood Circle, Quezon City (910 1111).

**Beef with truffles dressing**

Until July 10, Kitchi Continental Manila's Prince Albert Restaurant will offer a special à la carte menu of truffle-enhanced dishes for lunch and dinner, in addition to its classic favorites.

Dishes include Oyster Chowder with Bacon Chips and Vegetables with White Summer Truffles; US Beef Fillet Carpaccio with Summer Truffles Dressing; Pork Ribs and Parmesan Cheese; White French Summer Truffles Salad with Asparagus and Parmesan Cheese; Duck Liver Terrine with Truffle Oil Salad, Walnut Toast and Mango Chutney; Simmered Bouillabaisse with Seafood, Onions, Tomatoes, Leeks and White Summer Truffle Sauce and Chilean Sea Bass topped with Bark Liver on grated Potatoes. White Summer Truffle and Champagne Vinegar and Shallot Sauce.

Prince Albert Restaurant is open for lunch, Monday-Friday, 12 noon to 2 p.m., and dinner, Monday - Saturday, 7-10:30 p.m. Call 793 7000.

**Curry**

The Peninsula Manila's Spices Indian Specialty Chef Anukrish Kumar Jain takes diners on a journey through the sights, smells and tastes of the centerpieces of the Indian meal—curry—with July 12, Call 8521-4877/888, extensions 6154 and 6755 (Spices) or 6854 (Delta Lounge and Reservations).

**Cheesedog sizzle**

Until July 31, Sizzler Pepper Steak offers a new rice steak dish for its restaurants. For P99, diners can have Breakfast Sizzles all day every day. Specials include Fried Beef Sizzle, Tuna Sizzle, Meatloaf Sizzle and Cheesedog Sizzle—all paired with scrambled eggs and garlic chip rice. In addition, get a free single-serve glass of iced tea. Add P35 to go buttermilk.

Sizzler Pepper Steak is located at Alphaland Southgate Mall, Ayala Center Cebu, SF Homes, Eastwood, Festival Mall, Glorietta 5, Harbour View, ICCP Complex, Kalibo(wa), Marquee Mall in Pampanga, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall Annex, Robinsons Galleria, SM Fairview Annex (L, SM North Edsa, Robinsons Summit Tagaytay, Tiffanys and Venetian Mall.

**All-crab boodle**

Blackbeard's Seafood Island offers All-Crab Boodle, which has crab Martinez, crab fried rice, shrimp fried rice. Other dishes are: Sisig Kapampangan, Tuna and Cashmeat Sisig, Garlicky Sisilog, Crazy Chili Calamari and Baby Squid Sisig, Pulapolitan Islands Boodle Platter, Grilled Tanigue Belly, Seafood Chowder, Chicken Relleno, Singapog Ube ng Salmon, Singapog Ube ng Mapa Maya, Pork Lumpia, Chicken Inasal, Garlic Smothered and Gluten Crispy Pata, Pork Barbecue, Seafood Inasal, Fried Chicken, Salt and Pepper Lechon Kawali, Pinapaitan na Tilapia Deep-fried whole fish, Mixed Grill and Tanigue BBQ.

Blackbeard's Seafood Island is located at SF Ayala Land Technohub, Bgy. UP Campus, Quezon City (3202736), Trillonia Mall, Quezon City (09 15028), Eastwood City, Libis (9120564), Nuvia Market, Market! Market!, Bonifacio, Global City (5867620), Serpentina Arcade, Alcantara Section, Cubao (9139761).

# *Pairing sangria with good food*

SANGRIA IS GREAT TO drink on its own because of its sweet, refreshing fruity taste. But did you know that pairing it with the right kind of food makes it taste even better? Not just as red and white wines complement certain kinds of food, sangria can also enhance the flavors of food. This is because wine acts much like the way spices do, allowing acids, tannins and sugars in wine to interact with the food.

Carlo Rossi Sangria, with its citrusy notes of lemon, orange and grapefruit, makes it an universal drink that will go well with a lot of good food.

Sushi or pungent cheeses are generally a good match with fruity beverages, but for sangria, Pepper Jack is the best food to pair it with. Sangrias are great with spicy food as well. Perhaps its counteracting effect of cooling it is answer it with spice. Party fare such as calamari, fried shrimp and spicy meatballs also complement the taste of sangria.

Carlo Rossi Sangria is best served chilled and easy to drink, so even wine drinkers can take it.

Carlo Rossi Sangria is available in supermarkets and wine stores in seven-cup bottles of 750 ml.

CARLO Rossi Sangria has a blend of citrus notes.

HOMEMADE avocado ice cream with jalapeño pepper

# Old Baguio inn turns into dining haven

'Cocido' Mexicano, 'adobo' Mindanao, crispy duck flakes, Saigon steak sandwich are among Casa Vallejo's specialties

BIG French-style windows give diners a beautiful view of Baguio.

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE AMERICANS MAY HAVE inspired Baguio City as the country's summer capital but they may have also known that the city is a much wonderful place during the rainy months.

Why else would they make Sept. 1 an unofficial charter day, for example, when most allow them not, the paradox would be caused and?

And so it was that rainy Baguio became the only colonial hill station of the Americans in the Philippines 100 years ago.

CRISPY duck flakes

The colonial government built a sanatorium for Americans in what is now the site of SM City Baguio. Camp John Hay Brent School and Baguio Country Club were also established.

Inns and hotels soon followed. Among them is Casa Vallejo, the white mansion was located on Upper Session Road.

The inn, representing the spirit of Baguio's people—welcoming despite becoming a detention center for prisoners of war and a refugee camp. It also embraced the Americans' support bonding of the city in the end of World War II.

In 1941, Casa Vallejo became a temporary annex of the Baguio City High School. It later became an inn and convent on hill for those who could not afford nearby Pines Hotel.

When Casa Vallejo closed down in 1999, people were thinking it would soon be demolished or turned into an ukay-ukay (used clothes) center, like most historic edifices in the city.

## Casa Vallejo's future

Miles Benitez, Yñiguez, on her way from downtown to Manila, a restaurant her family owns and has been managing, may have passed by Casa Vallejo many a rainy night and pondered about its future.

Yñiguez thought about Casa Vallejo on much that last year, when the new owner told her about putting up a restaurant in the inn's former dining hall, she was so excited.

"This is the project of my dreams," was all she could say.

"But then there is something I need to know, Are you leasing it down?" she recalled asking the owner. "Yes, I'm thinking," he answered. I knew already what he was thinking," she said.

The only major renovation was the twin grand staircases from the inn to the restaurant.

## Dream restaurant

So Yñiguez set up her dream restaurant. She bade farewell to Manila and trained a new crew, including three line cooks, a chef and two handling the cold section, like salads and pastries.

She named the new restaurant 100 Stanton and fashioned a cuisine combining ancient rice concept. "That meant slow food, farmer, women and casual food," she said.

The menu has cocido Mexicano, adobo Mindanao, crispy duck flakes, fried rapeseed with following pine-ng caping, linguine with fresh basil tomato and pecorino, Saigon steak sandwich with caramelized onions, steak and prawn pot-pot. The cupa melanie mea tasahi with wasabi mayo, soy and chorizo bilbao.

"All ingredients are sourced locally," Yñiguez said.

The pottery dishes, lunch and other dining pieces were made by Lourdes Abueva Benavendo, 1400 matrices in selling, and using, pieces from Baguio pottery like Imagray Longid, a small pottery announces that recently 364 Dealer.

Yñiguez recently set up a stand for things she customized—granola, salsa, pesto, tomato sauce, mango chutney, lumpiang, spice in olive oil and oil (chili) paste. She also sells strawberry, corn crisps, berry crisps and cauliflower honey.

Hill Station server outgoing persons for chefs to regular customers and the pottery here is to throw the shells on the floor.

The house wines are Colombelle and 33 Degrees South. "I prize my wine on cheap that guests would rather buy by the bottle," Yñiguez said.

Yñiguez highlighted the former ballroom through huge French windows. Diners could relish the view of the Burnt pine reservation in the morning and the lights that blanket the mountain at night.

Casa Vallejo's wooden floor and beams from its detention hall days are still intact.

The walls are adorned by the collection of Yñiguez's husband, Jhoy, who is one of the most sought-after photographers in Metro Manila and abroad.

Among the photographs featured here were taken by Nig Tyamuna, Tommy Hafalla and Ompong Jim.

Jhoy Yñiguez also plans to collect old photos of Casa Vallejo.

Anchorperson Dalmapanit Benitez and her mother, restaurateur Lanila Lim, are opening a bookstore specializing in books on Baguio and Ilocos near the Hill Station Inn.

Meanwhile, the old residents of Baguio are warming up to the place, hosting Sunday dinners.

POT DEALER. Miles Benitez Yñiguez also sells pottery dishes, bowls and other dining pieces.

WELL STOCKED pantry corner

THE HILL Station garden salad. Mixed organic vegetables, white balsamic dressing, caramelized walnuts, Baguio blueberries and honey-grown habanero.

# ENTERTAINMENT

Lira Soriano-G. Velarde

**Fallen star steals show**

LOS ANGELES—THE BET AWARDS ON Sunday were hosted by a Queen (Latifah) and honored Prince, but it was a fallen star, Chris Brown—Rihanna's "bad boy" ex—who surprised fans with a tearful tribute to Michael Jackson. *Reuters*

## Steph Henares: I'm no 'girly girl'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ASIMAK BRAND-AMBASSADOR STEPH HENARES looked genuinely stumped.

The question that left the loquacious, QTV host at a loss for words: "Does she approve of DJ? Me as boyfriend for cousin Brian Barcos?"

"Are they together, for? Are you kidding me? I don't really know him. We're not friends," she explained in rapid-fire fashion.

We rephrased the query: What kind of boy does she want for Pilar?

"Someone who's a Christian. A good influence. Someone who'd support her through good times and bad. One who serves a good god."

Stephanie and Pilar are pretty tight. "We grew up together," she said.

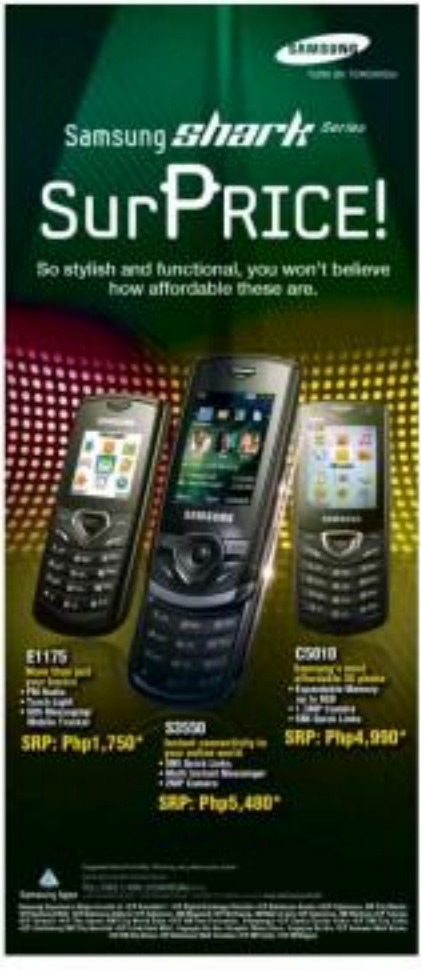
Like Pilar, before him, Stephanie is now a regular TV star—along with fellow Asimak ambassador Iwa Moto, in dating DJ Pilo.

STEPH doesn't know that her cousin, QMJ-7 talent Brian Barcos, is dating DJ Pio.

**Did You Know...**

### Sandra Bullock, hubby file for divorce

OSCAR-WINNING ACTRESS SANDRA BULLOCK and her estranged husband Jesse James have filed divorce papers in Texas, ending their nearly five-year marriage after he admitted to infidelity, according to reports on Monday. People magazine said the divorce papers were filed under seal last week, and Bullock's representative for Bullock confirmed the divorce is final. *Reuters*

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# Gozon: TV5 ignored me on DJ Mo deal

"I WROTE TV5. THAT DJ MO WAS UNDER contract with us and that we had renewed. They ignored it," Felipe L. Gozon, GMA 7 president, chief and CEO, told showbiz news journalists last week.

He was asked about the case he filed after DJ Mo, a Esquire talent, started appearing on TV5 shows.

Gozon said he (and next brunch, "I wanted to see whether the law was being followed by everybody or not."

He explained: "It's a lawyer and I have it when something like that is ignored. I heard they said: It's just a contract, it has a price. Okay, let's see. It's not only money [for me]. We can present Mo from performing there by injunction. That contract is binding and ... he cannot appear in any other TV station without our consent. Wala po yong situation sa atin di ba. You know why? He said the address he wrote in the contract was no longer his actual residence so, when it was served, he didn't get it also. I just [asked for him to be served] again where he lives now."

Plan for running after the talent brunch for his value? Gozon was also asked. He retorted, "Should a divorcee can sustain if we lose him? The thing is, M. have easily let him go, but I heard some disagreeable things [on top of the fact that] we were ignored."

Everyone involved should be caught a brunch, said Gozon. "Under the law, you cannot cancel somebody on whatever a contract. TV5 is very much involved in this."

Sought for comment, Perry Escalan, TV5 executive and entertainment head, said he network would rather leave the resolution of the matter to the courts at this point.

"TV5 is just trying to remain peaceably with the other networks," Escalan told Inquirer by phone. "We never set out to antagonize anyone."

Dennis G. Eduardo

# Steph ...

From page E1

and Cosplay superstars Akeila and Ash. ity Cunningham. Others hosted "Mad, Mad Fair" on Animax in 2007.)

Stephanie, daughter of talent managers Jeanette Ilonzo Hinares and GMA 7 exec Ida Eunice Hinares, topped the audition for the role. Heidi's first-ever search for Ani-mores, also hosts "I 2B" on QTV.

Eng Ho, Animax vice president and general manager, described Stephanie as a "young star who can go far across the regions. She's friendly and energetic."

She related that although beating an QTV princess her and, her new job as Ani-mate a quite daunting still.

"It's challenging because I'm stepping into a totally different world," she explained. "I'm [under] to do voiceovers. I have to run around and interview people. It's a totally different [experience] for me."

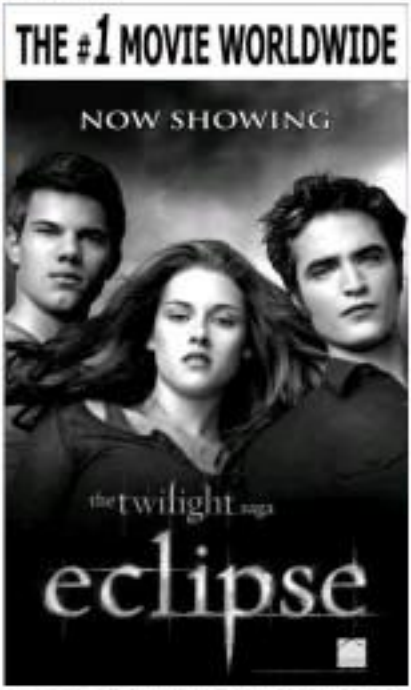
Her native Akeila and Ashley dress up at anime elaborate tyrone Kissing and Tokini Shinozaka of "Stigma of the Wolf" fame.

Will Stephanie ever don a Cosplay ensemble, too?

"I'm thinking of the blue-haired girl on 'Stigma,' but I'd like to be a 'Call of Duty' soldier. I play [computer] games! 'Call of Duty: Modern Warfare,' 'Blackhawk' and 'World of Classic' with my friends," she quipped.

Steph, who's also a Scottie's Beat model, is a warrior woman!

"Until, reminder me be a girly girl," she exclaimed. "But I also play Wii Society."



# I braved the rain for 'Legally Blonde'

BACK STORY

*Lito Salonga*

ON THE INVITATION OF JJ Bonito Productions' Bobby Garcia and Chuti Arespacochaga, I braved the Friday night rain and traffic to head to the Meralco Theater to catch the opening night of "Legally Blonde."

Unfortunately, I missed a good half hour of the show. It took me nearly two hours to get from Batasan to Ortig. Can't somebody fix the problem, especially when it rains?

But I don't mind watching the show again.

"Legally Blonde: The Musical" (music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin, and book by Heather Hach) is based on the 2001 film "Legally Blonde" starring Reese Witherspoon as the SCJA sorority girl turned Harvard Law School valedictorian Elle Woods.

The role was in turn based on the novel of the same name by Amanda Brown.

The musical opened on Broadway in 2007 starring Laura Bell Bundy and Christian Borle, and ran for 20 previews and 595 performances.

I saw the film, which I found utterly charming and sweet.

The local production contains those same two qualities in spades, especially in the two leads: Miss Gil (as Elle Woods) and Ryan Eduardo (as Emmett Forrest).

**Every note in place**

Ms Gil, in her first major musical lead role, has vocal chops and charm to spare. Every time she is in the show and there were moments when she had the audience laughing out loud with a line or a move. It's also pleasingly obvious in how just how hard she has worked (kudos to Sweetie Pimentel and Mr/Ms Mulligan for whipping her voice into shape), and I must love the effort.

All the girl needs a more time to sink into the role even further, to give her performance a bit more oomph. That said, congratulations, Ms Gil, on a successful opening.

After seeing Ms Gilmore's breathtaking turn as leawood stubbs in "Hairspray" when he danced and sang like a whirling dervish on crack, it was a welcome sight to see him in a role that dressed his more relaxed, acoustic sensibilities.

His Emmett was an easy and endearing fan one friend pointed out, in a warm and fuzzy wrapper and of 'sexy.' But one could also already understand why Elle would fall for him.

As wonderful as these two performances are, for me, the main concern is to see the show again and again in the stellar support cast that "Blonde's" directors Bo Arespacochaga have put together.

**Precise and clear**

Gio Mikaelo (as resident bitch-turned-Elle-ally Vivienne Kensington) is always one of my favorite performers, and with good reason. He was precise and clear, with a clarion voice that thrilled and pleased.

Bobby Balderama is memorable Gigi in the Toronto production of "Miss Saigon!") was all at once incandescent, feisty and kick-ass amazing as the sultry senior Paulette. I could not even since take my eyes off her every time she opened her mouth to sing.

Art Pangan as the arrogant and lecherous Professor Callahan was terrific. I regret missing his big solo (I was still stuck in traffic), but I enjoyed every brief moment he spent on stage, with his big, booming voice that measured to the back of the theater.

Geneva Cruz as workout video queen and accused murderess Brooke Wyndham was fantastic. I regret missing her big solo (I was still stuck in traffic), but I enjoyed every brief moment he spent on stage, with his big, booming voice that measured to the back of the theater.

Ian